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THURSDAY, APRIL 4TH, 2013

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE
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Page 18

School days are the best time of your lives – at least at Romilly!

Romilly Old Boys' reunion proved a hugely successful event. For more on how the evening went, please turn to page 3.
PHOTOGRAPH by ALEXANDER MORTIMER-BROWN

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Barry man jailed for failing to do community work

A BARRY man who failed to observe conditions of a suspended sentence order has been jailed for six months at Cardiff Crown Court, ***writes AJ Sicluna.***

Jonathan Lake, 24, of Caerau Close, had received a suspended sentence at a hearing at Cardiff Crown Court for an offence of wounding.

He had also been ordered to carry out 300 hours unpaid work.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Purchase of airport: right or wrong?

THE Welsh Government has bought Cardiff Airport for £52 million, leading to a political disagreement. **Turn to page 5.**

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Readers' Letters

***IMPORTANT!** We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. LETTERS AND EMAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. AN EMAIL ADDRESS ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews. co.uk*

'Police Commissioners should be criticised' says Councillor

I WAS interested to read two letters in The GEM calling me "cynical" for criticising the new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

So let's get to the bottom of this:

Would your readers prefer a back office of 10 or more for the PCC, or more bobbies on the beat?

How much will this new system save the taxpayer?

I have asked over 50 people why they did not vote and they asked me this:

What difference will the new PCC make? (While answering this, perhaps your letter writers will tell us why there was a low turn out for this election).

If PCC candidates are not politicised, why did they stand under their political banners?

The most appalling aspect of the letters was the fact I was criticised for not voting!

Why should someone vote for something they do not believe in?

My final point is, why does Alun Michael really need both a deputy and an assistant? Mr Michael was once a Home Office Minster, so he should know how the police operate.

In my view, councillors should not be criticised for wanting to save the taxpayer money.

After all, the new PCC has already started with a massive seven per cent increase for us.

Coun Richard Bertin, Barry.

WHY DELAY ISLAND ROAD?

I CANNOT understand the thinking of those in charge of the improvements on the Waterfront, as they don't seem in any hurry to get that road to Barry Island started!

If, as it is hoped, there will be an increase in trade in the foreseeable future, that road should be a priority.

With more supermarkets expected on the Waterfront, it surely justifies forward planning.

With the upgrading of Barry Island there will be even more traffic using the causeway and if (?) we have a good summer, there could be congestion on more than one occasion.

I always feel sorry for those people I see carrying shopping-bags through the Waterfront as they make their way home to the Island, especially when the weather is bad and it is getting dark!

Mrs DE Coombes Herridge Barry

Power of the printed word

THANK YOU to The GEM, which has again proved that it can stir the Vale Council to action.

After publishing my 'pothole' letter on March 21, the following Monday – just four days later – saw the council workers return to Aberystwyth Crescent in Barry to repair and replace two kerbstones and paving stones, marked previously by 'yellow pen man' and missed by the previous council visitation.

This illustrates, yet again, the power of the printed word, even in this digital age - thank you; and to the council too, for a rapid response.

Christopher Short Barry

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'YEARS BEFORE AIRPORT WILL MAKE A PROFIT'

CAN the Welsh taxpayer afford to subsidise Cardiff Airport?

When I heard that the Welsh Government was interested in taking over the airport I was amazed. When it was confirmed this week, that Welsh taxpayers now own the airport, I was flabbergasted.

We paid £52million, and it doesn't stop there – we will have to pay a 'management company' to run it.

Is it making a profit? No, it is losing money. The customer numbers have reduced over the last few years, from two million to one million.

The Welsh Government tells us that they can integrate the airport into its wider economic strategy and boost prospects for all that use it.

This is the sort of statement that should be related to the NHS.

We are also told by the media that half the NHS Trusts in Wales are losing millions this year.

This cash, of course, could go to rescue these trusts, so that they can improve patient care, etc.

At some stage the Welsh Government is going to tell us that they will be spending more millions on access to the airport from the motorway.

It doesn't stop there I'm sure. To be honest, it is going to take years for Cardiff Airport to make a profit, whoever is running it.

Anthony Allen Llantwit Major

'Bus service and the Bay area'

I WONDER how many Barry, Penarth, Dinas Powys, Sully readers, and other Vale residents, are feeling deprived by the lack of a bus service from their towns to Cardiff Bay and other developments in the Bay area.

The population of these named places alone, amounts to about 90,000.

The services in Cardiff Bay and surrounds are about 80 in number, comprising shops, offices, banks, cafés, restaurants, cinemas, opera house, exhibitions, chemists, supermarkets and even river boat trips.

Access to this area from places in the Vale can be obtained by bus services, but this means a change of bus and a double fare.

Surely the Vale population merits the ability to have a meal and a drink without the need to park a car, or to have to nominate one driver not to drink; or to be able to see a film or opera or show, and have a meal afterwards before going home. What do GEM readers think?

Brian Stephens, Penarth

Re-usable rubbish bags

I WOULD like to make a suggestion to the Vale Council to introduce a black re-usable bag, similar to the green and blue recycling bags, for small amounts of domestic waste.

It might save us buying black bags. No, the black bags were not 'free', we paid for them out of our high council tax.

P Hill, Barry

ALL HANDS TO FLYING STATIONS!

Did you serve on board any of the light fleet carriers, HMS Bulwark, HMS Albion, or HMS Centaur? The HMS Bulwark Albion Centaur Association is open to anyone who served at any time on these ships.

We send a magazine three times per year and run events including AGM/socials, sea trips with HMS Bulwark and anniversary commemorations at home and abroad.

While our Home Port is Portsmouth, last year we were at the Hilton Hotel, Blackpool, for the AGM/social. This year we will be at the Royal Beach, Southsea, on Saturday, May 11.

We also sponsor sea cadets from our affiliated Sea Cadet Corps on three training ships – one sail two motor. Membership is £8 per annum.

Leigh Easton, Glenmoray, Hayford Pl, Cambusbarron, Stirling, FK7 9JX or email at *ngsfo@tiscali.co.uk or visit our website at: www.bulwarkassoc.co.uk*

'DECISIONS ON AIRPORT'S FUTURE ARE CRITICAL'

IT is important that crucial parts of the Welsh infrastructure, such as our national airport, are properly managed for the benefit of the wider Welsh economy.

However, Cardiff Airport has struggled and played little role in improving the Welsh economy in recent years – especially since the downturn.

The Welsh Government takeover of the airport has the potential to be positive, but, as Plaid Cymru leader Leanne Wood made clear when speaking on this in the National Assembly, the ownership doesn't matter if those in charge aren't travelling in the right direction.

Cardiff Airport needs more resources for route development, further investigation into joint funding to improve facilities, to concentrate on attracting business customers and foreign companies who bring money to Wales, and on developing a long-term strategy rather than grabbing a quick fix headline.

More than 1,000 jobs in Wales depend on Cardiff Airport, most of them local jobs. It is therefore vital for those jobs that the airport is a success.

For us in the Vale, a successful airport and expansion of aviation experience is an important part of our local economy.

We have a great opportunity here which must not be wasted by poor decision making.

Coun Ian Johnson, Barry

'Why produce fridge magnets?'

I APPRECIATE that the Vale Council needs to save money – hence no more free black bags – but how much did it cost to produce fridge magnets which are too small to read anyway?

S Jones, Cowbridge

'Thank you for kind donation'

WE would like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to the anonymous donor who very kindly gave us money to send to the Good Life Orphanage in Mombasa, Kenya.

What a lovely gesture!

For anyone interested in learning more about this wonderful orphanage and the people involved, please go to their website: *www.the goodlifeorphanage.com.*

We guarantee that all donations go straight to the orphanage and the children there receive the best care and education possible.

There is also video footage which can be viewed via YouTube.

Colm and Sue O'Shea, Llantwit Major

Cat raises £3,000 for charity on desert trek

Cat and Linzi on their trek across the Sahara

A CARDIFF and Vale College complementary therapy lecturer and co-ordinator, Cat Hillier, has raised £3,150 for the British Heart Foundation, by trekking across the Sahara desert.

Cat wanted to do something for the foundation after BHF cared for her mother when she was diagnosed with a genetic form of heart failure. She braved the desert heat with sister-in-law Linzi Obradovic.

"After six long, hot days and endless sand dunes, we managed to trek a distance of 77 miles – I have the blisters to prove it!" Cat said. "The days were hot and the evenings were dark and cold. The temperature in the day reached 43 degrees and the evening was as low as -2." she reported.

"I can definitely say that trekking in the desert in sand storms, heat and no toilet facilities is a very interesting experience – and one that I will take away with me for ever."

The trek was part of a series of charitable events that Cat has organised which have included selling cakes to her students and a charity meal in the Glamorgan Suite, the college's restaurant.

While Cat has raised £3,150, she has not yet reached her target of £3,500. If anyone would like to make a donation, contact *catherinehilliier@hotmail.com*

CHARITY DINNER

LAST year's performance was sold out, but Puccini and Prosecco are back in Cowbridge for an Italian-themed dinner, with artists from Welsh National Opera in the Bear Hotel on Monday, July 1, at 7pm.

Tickets are £29, proceeds to Welsh Hearts Charity. To book, contact the Bear Hotel on 01446 774814, Sharon Owen on 07730 944700, or email fundraising@welshhearts.org.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 11)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
04 Thur	00.59	8.2	13.46	7.9
05 Fri	02.27	8.1	15.14	8.0
06 Sat	03.49	8.3	16.25	8.4
07 Sun	04.52	8.8	17.22	9.0
08 Mon	05.45	9.3	18.08	9.2
09 Tues	06.31	9.6	18.57	9.7
10 Wed	07.14	9.8	19.34	9.7
11 Thur	07.52	9.8	20.08	9.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

E-Mail Contacts: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk* • *gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk* • Tel 01446 774484
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Nostalgic evening for Old Boys

THE Romilly Old Boys Reunion, held at Cadoxton Conservative Club, proved a wonderful success with nearly 150 old boys attending.

ABOVE: The teachers' committee.

It was the same number that attended a reunion in 2002, and shows just how well organisers did in spreading word of the nostalgic gathering.

The senior event organiser, Alan Kingdon, told The GEM he had been thrilled by the response of 'old boys'.

Alan said: "Almost 150 former pupils of varying ages were able to reminisce about old times. Some had not seen each other for 50 years.

"I want to thank all those who attended and the staff at the venue who contributed in making this night a memorable and enjoyable occasion."

Romilly Boys' School opened in 1906 and closed in 1966. Alan's new task is to start preparing for a reunion in 2023!

'Warm spell' needed to start holiday season

by TIM CHAPMAN

THE funfair showman who provides rides at the Island's Pleasure Park says he is praying for a warm spell of weather to bring in the crowds.

Although there were sunny spells over the Easter weekend, Vernon Studt told The GEM low temperatures meant there were too few people visiting the park: "Our success or failure is dictated by the weather. It's been bitterly cold and people who have come have been well wrapped up.

"This weekend I've looked at the trains and they've been very quiet – some two thirds empty. Friends in Porthcawl, Swansea and Bristol, say it's the same story there.

"I've got more on offer this year – around 20 rides – than I've had in the five years I've been coming here.

"Part of the problem is that we're not just fighting the weather, we're fighting the economy. We want a really warm spell that will bring the numbers to the Island – then we'll get a proportion who will spend their money."

Vernon is nothing if not phlegmatic: "The one thing I can say is that it has been better than this time last year when it tipped down and we didn't open."

The Met Office is predicting a change from colder temperatures to more typical April temperatures midway through the month.

One thing Vernon is confident of is the fact that when mild to warm weather does arrive, there will be a stampede to resorts as people try to make the most of the glorious outdoors after such a testing winter.

Huge response to future of former Dinas school site

ALMOST 500 people responded to the consultation over the future of the former school site at Murch Crescent in Dinas Powys.

Among the suggested uses were a health centre, limited housing, a church, green spaces and allotments.

Local Plaid Cymru councillors said they welcomed the report.

Coun Chris Franks explained: "We now need the Vale Council to take the next step to determine how it will respond to the residents' views.

"Many residents were worried about the impact of hundreds of houses on local roads and other public services.

"There was significant support for using the existing pitches for sport. Some thought the gymnasium should be retained for gymnastics.

"Infrastructure concerns, especially the addition burdens on local roads, are a major concern for residents. The report states that any development plan must take this into account."

Coun Franks stressed that Plaid favoured the land and buildings having a use that benefited the whole community.

He said that a significant number of local people had suggested that a health centre could be located on the site.

He added that he would like to see the future of the site speedily resolved.

"Now the focus will be on the Vale Council Cabinet to see how they intend to react to this consultation.

"Time is of the essence. We all know that empty public buildings are a magnet for criminal activity."

The Vale Council has taken action to secure the building.

Councillor's cautious welcome for wardens

PLAID Cymru councillor in Barry Town Centre, Coun Ian Johnson, has welcomed the introduction of new traffic wardens to the town centre, but warned that they must do their job properly for the benefit of local residents and shoppers.

Coun Johnson said that residents had had to wait for years for the reintroduction of new wardens, known as civil enforcement officers, and had suffered major disruption in that time as some individuals ignored the parking rules.

"I am concerned that there will not be enough of these CEOs for the four town centres in the Vale, as well as Barry Island and Penarth Marina.

"We will have five officers in the Vale whereas, because of different regulations, there will be 12 in Bridgend.

"I also hope that the new wardens will use their common sense, especially for local residents. Local residents mostly have parking permits but I don't want to see anyone caught out under the new scheme who shouldn't be."

Youth project's events

THE Cadoxton Youth Project (CYP) is at the Cadoxton Sports Hall over the holiday.

With funding from 'Dish out Dosh' and 'National Lottery', the CYP were able to hire the sports hall, giving families the chance to have fun while exercising. The charity, set up in 2007 and run by volunteers also gave out food bags.

Friday will see the final day of events and there will be a presentation of trophies. Final day Friday April 5, 3pm to 5pm; telephone Rita on 01446 621829 for more details and information on food bags.

Dinas burglary

DETECTIVES investigating a burglary at a house in Dinas Powys, have asked for help from the public.

It occurred between 9.30am-9.45am on Monday, March 25, when an intruder gained access, but was disturbed and made off.

Police described him as white, in mid to late 20s, five feet five inches to five feet eight inches tall, medium build, and with short, straight dark hair. He was wearing a stone-coloured bomber jacket.

Anyone with information can contact DS Julian Kerslake at Barry CID on 01446 731606, 101, or free (quote reference 62130088442).

Introducing Dyffryn

ON Wednesday, April 10, 10am – 12pm, an event has been organised for members of the Vale of Glamorgan Association and any National Trust members.

The morning will give members the opportunity to meet Dyffryn staff and fellow members, learn about the house restoration project and receive a private tour around the recently restored Edwardian mansion.

Booking is essential. Contact Roanna at Roanna.Larsen@nationaltrust.org.uk or on 07554 112474.

'Elephants of the sky do have grace'

BIG aeroplanes don't only fly sedately and steadily across the sky, they can do more skittish things as well, as members of Penarth Aviation Society will see from film clips at their meeting this Friday, April 5.

In 'A magnificent miscellany of aviation oddities' presented by David Ephraim, the surprising agility of a C-130 Hercules, 155,000 pounds of metal with a wingspan of 132.5 feet and nearly 98 feet long, is demonstrated as it lands neatly and precisely on an aircraft carrier.

Just as breath-taking is a massive Vulcan bomber, 83,573lb when empty, with a wingspan of over 99feet, capable of flying at 645mph, doing a few barrel rolls.

Some of these may sound like racing a double decker bus in the Le Mans rally, but they are among other surprising examples of what a skilled and daring pilot can do with a good flying machine, whether big or small, and finish with both in one piece.

Penarth Aviation Society meets at the Penarth Conservative Club on the first Friday of each month; visitors are welcome.

Further information from David Ephraim, telephone 01446 721321.

YT

Cadoc councillors' local surgery

Councillors Fred Johnson, Anne Moore, and Neil Moore, will be holdings their open surgery on Saturday, April 6, at Cadoxton Moors Community Centre starting at 10.30pm and running to 11.30am.

All are welcome.

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BEST QUALITY • ONE AND ONLY • AWARD WINNING

Bryn Hafren girls impress with quality dance show

PHOTOS by IAN DIXON

RECENTLY, Bryn Hafren School staged a dance show for parents and students in the gymnasium.

Senior school students presented a number of dances, from solo to groups, including several of their examination pieces.

The audience were enthralled and impressed by the standard of performance, and commented on the hard work and dedication of both the students and the staff.

Town council gives grants to good causes

Left to right: Paul Canning (Wales Air Ambulance), Town Mayor, Councillor Philip Rapier, Penny Evans (Stroke Association) and John Curtis (Best Kept Village).

ON March 26, the Penarth Town Mayor, Coun Philip Rapier, welcomed representatives at West House from the Stroke Association, Wales Air Ambulance and Best Kept Village.

A council spokeswoman said: "Penny Evans from the Stroke Association received financial assistance towards the provision of specialised ongoing activities for the group.

"Paul Canning of Wales Air Ambulance received financial assistance towards the upgrading of the helicopter.

"John Curtis, representing the Vale of Glamorgan Best Kept Village, received financial assistance towards the prize money."

She added: "The Town Mayor expressed his delight in being able to assist these very valued groups that help make the community what it is today."

Homage to St David at Palmerston school

ABOVE: Lia, Aimee, Kelis and Amy proudly receive their certificates for their drawings of castles.

These photos were taken when pupils at Palmerston Primary school celebrated the Welsh Saint's day in patriotic fashion.

Jacob and Mia proudly show off their art work.

Seren smiles for St David's Day.

David and his Welsh dragon.

First meeting of new Barry Voice Group

The first meeting of The Barry Voice Group took place at Barry Island sports and social club on Thursday, March 21.

The meeting was chaired by Coun Richard Bertin of Barry Voice and Barrie V Evans of Barry First Group.

A number of issues were discussed at the meeting including the issue of the new access link road to Barry Island.

Councillors Nic Hodges, Steffan Wiliam and Shirley Hodges also attended the meeting.

Mrs Jill John of The Hope in the Vale Group spoke on the LDP.

She told the meeting that she believed that proposed changes being made to the LDP would leave a loophole in the system for greedy developers to apply for planning permission on currently unprotected land.

Mrs John said: "The previous UDP is now redundant and it has created an opportunity for developers to abuse this lack of protection, and try to get planning on land that previously would not be easy to obtain.

"These key players prioritise profit over people's well being.

"As one of the largest towns in Wales already, we need to make a stand against these developers permanently plundering our green spaces.

"These green spaces are the lungs of a very busy town. Please make your voice heard and help us to keep breathing.

"We realise that there is a need for housing, but when will enough be enough!"

BVE

SURGERY

DYFAN Labour councillors Claire Curtis and Anthony Powell are holding an advice surgery on Saturday, April 6 at the Colcot Community Centre, Keats Way, Barry, from 11am to 12pm.

Political parties divide over Cardiff Airport

by PHILIP IRWIN

AFTER the announcement last week that the Welsh Government is to buy Cardiff Airport for £52 million, discussion is now turning to whether the price was right, and whether the cash could have been used elsewhere.

Vale MP Alun Cairns said that £52 million was a lot of money, which could have built six primary schools or three or four secondary schools.

However, Vale AM Jane Hutt was adamant that the deal would be good for Wales – and for the Vale.

She argued that now the airport could be integrated into Wales' wider economic strategy, and that it could boost prospects for tourism, businesses and the aviation industry.

She pointed, in particular, to possibilities for growth at the British Airways Maintenance Centre, and also said that it could help the St Athan and Cardiff Enterprise Zone.

Mr Cairns, however, was more sceptical. He said: "There is a clear inconsistency from the Welsh Government.

"Two weeks ago, they were calling for more capital funds from the treasury for construction projects to kick start the economy. Now, they are tying up £52 million in an existing asset."

He stressed that he was keen to see the airport prosper, saying: "I wouldn't have chosen this course but we need to do all possible to attract international airlines.

"I will do everything possible to support the airport. Most areas of aviation policy are not devolved, so I would hope that they put party politics aside to ensure we get the best deal for passengers."

Plaid Cymru's Ian Johnston, in a letter to The GEM (*see page 2*) said: "Cardiff Airport needs more resources for route development, further investigation into joint funding to improve facilities, to concentrate on attracting business customers and foreign companies who bring money to Wales, and on developing a long-term strategy rather than grabbing a quick fix headline."

Jane Hutt insisted that the Welsh Government was doing the right thing.

She said: "Airports in public ownership across the UK, such as Manchester and the Highlands and Islands, are very successful.

"Managed with commercial expertise, they are making a real difference to their local and regional economies."

The Welsh Government will not be taking on the management of the airport, but will look to put in an experience airport operating company.

The Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, branded the plan as "1970-style nationalisation" and said: "What we need to see is proper investment in establishing the kind of routes that will attract passengers, and in properly promoting Wales as a tourist destination to the rest of the world.

"Grand socialist schemes like this are just a distraction from the real work that needs to be done."

Charity rugby day for Royal Marines cause

A charity day on behalf of the Royal Marines Association is being held on May 4.

There are rugby matches lined up and lots of entertainment.

Marine Josh Davies told The GEM: "The event takes place for most of the day at Barry Rugby Club on that Saturday, starting at 11am.

"I'm bringing 43 Commando Royal Marines to play Barry RFC.

"There are other matches too. Barry Ladies RFC will play Maesteg Ladies, and Barry under-10s will play the under-11s.

"But it is a family day and there will be a bouncy castle, lots of stalls, a barbecue, an indoor bar, an outdoor one, and a raffle."

Presentations on the day will be made by the commanding officer and the regimental sergeant major.

British soldiers who have served in Afghanistan will be attending the fund-raising day too.

Josh added: "There will be tickets on the gate which will include entry to the raffle, and a programme. A family ticket, two adults and two children under 16, is £10. Adults are £5, and children £2.

"I'd like to thank Cass Scaffolding for generously agreeing to sponsor

Contacting the Rhoose Residents' Committee

LAST week, under the story 'Progress is being made in Rhoose' an incorrect email address was published.

The correct address for people wishing to contact or become members of the Rhoose Village Residents' Committee is rhoosevillage@aol.com.

A new website and association will follow in the coming months.

'Where does council stand on Port Road congestion?'

I read with interest and sympathy the article 'Port Road is creaking under the strain' published on March 28.

I too, along with doubtless thousands of other commuters, have witnessed Port Road to be gridlocked particularly at rush-hour times.

This problem appears to be recognised by councillors, MPs, environmental groups and members of the public.

Only building developers and their planning experts appear to be in denial.

What is not clear is where the local authority stand on this point. Do they not acknowledge this problem will significantly increase if further development is built around Port Road?

I note Mr Loosemore, the operational manager of highways at the Vale Council kindly commented in the article about enforcement of illegal parking.

This alone will not solve the problem. Perhaps Mr Loosemore could comment further and expand on precisely where the highway department stands on traffic congestion on Port Road in the present and in the future.

(Name and address supplied)

Man missed six appointments with the probation service

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Judge Michael Burr told him: "You have admitted the third breach of the original order. You were no doubt given warnings of strict compliance.

"To your credit, you made a great effort to comply but from February this year, you simply disengaged with the authorities and neglected your responsibility.

"The only possible consequence is to bring into operation the terms of the order."

Prosecutor Jeffrey Jones said Lake had missed six appointments with the probation service.

The circumstances of the wounding he said, were that on August 6, 2011, he attacked a friend, Stefan Smith in Barry.

The two had a row and Lake armed himself with two knives.

Mr Jones said one of the weapons was "stuck" into the chest of Mr Smith.

Initially Lake claimed he was acting in self- defence but later accepted he had been reckless.

Defence solicitor Adam Sharpe said Mr Smith didn't make a complaint and it was Blake's first offence of violence.

For a time, he said, he had been homeless but now cares for a sick relative.

"He had made a considerable effort to comply with the order but he fell and suffered chronic back pain which made him unfit for work.

"This was a genuine issue but he didn't convey this explanation to the probation service."

He said Blake was in a stable relationship and the assault was an isolated offence.

"I acknowledge he is in a precarious position but to send him to prison would be a disaster."

VFS

Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service

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BOOK FESTIVAL 2013 LAUNCHED IN PENARTH

Left to right: Ty Hafan's Geoff Back, MND Association's Sue Edwards, Town Mayor, Coun Philip Rapier, MS Society's Judi Rhys, are pictured at the launch.

TO mark the launch of the 2013 Penarth Book Festival recently, Town Mayor Coun Philip Rapier was presented with cheques for the four charities nominated for support at last year's event.

The MND Association, MS Cymru, Ty Hafan and Book Aid International each received £250 from profits raised last October.

The Penarth Book Festival 2013 will run from Wednesday October 16 – 20 and the organisers are already busy raising sponsorship.

"We are delighted to announce that TWL Voice and Data and Core Web Design, who kindly sponsored us last year, have agreed to do the same again," said festival organiser, Cathy Farr. "We are, however, still looking to raise additional funds as we are hoping we can attract more authors and host a broader programme of events.

"Any organisations that would like to get involved should visit our website in the first instance. Our aim is to build on the success of 2012 to attract more people to the events and into the town and to raise more money for charity."

Already on the programme is another 'Poems and Pints' evening, which proved very popular last year, together with talks and discussions from visiting authors; and following in the wake of the success of the Peppa Pig event the organisers are already on the hunt for an equally popular visitor for this year.

To keep up-to-date with festival news go to www.penarthbookfestival.org.uk.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (KATHLEEN STREET SERVICE LANE BARRY) (ROAD CLOSURE) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2013

1. On 4th April 2013 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below:

2. The Order will be known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Kathleen Street Service Lane Barry) (Road Closure) (Temporary) Order" 2013 and will come into effect on Monday 8th April 2013.

SCHEDULE 1

No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to proceed in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location	The lane that connects Kathleen Street and Lewis Street (to the rear of 29 to 38 Park Crescent), and the lane that extends in a northwesterly direction from the rear of number 2 Lewis Street to its junction with Salisbury Road.
Reason	To allow for essential sewer works to be carried out
Duration	From 7.00am on Monday 8th April 2013, for a maximum period of 18 months. It is anticipated that the works will only take 10 weeks
Alt. Route	None

NB: Pedestrian access for residents ONLY will be maintained

Dated this 4th day of April 2013.

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2013 GORCHYMYN (CAU FFYRDD) (DROS DRO) (LÔN WASANAETH KATHLEEN STREET, Y BARRI)

1. Ar 4 Ebrill 2013, bu Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adran 14(1) Deddf Rheoli Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 (ddiwygiedig), yn gwneud Gorchymyn i'r diben cyffredinol a ddisgrifir yn yr Atodlenni isod.

2. Adwaenir y Gorchymyn fel 'Gorchymyn (Cau Ffyrdd) (Dros Dro) (Lôn Wasanaeth Kathleen Street, Y Barri) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2013', a daw i rym ar ddydd Llun 8 Ebrill 2013.

ATODLEN 1

Ni fydd neb yn gyrru nac yn caniatáu i neb arall yrru modur yn y lleoliad a nodwyd yn Atodlen 2 isod.

ATODLEN 2

Lleoliad	Y lôn sy'n cysylltu Kathleen Street â Lewis Street (sef y lôn gefn rhwng 29 a 38 Park Crescent), a'r lôn sy'n rhedeg o gefn 2 Lewis Street i gyfeiriad y gogledd orllewin tuag at y gyffordd â Salisbury Road.
Rheswm	Gwneud gwaith angenrheidiol ar y carthffosydd.
Cyfnod	O 7.00am ar ddydd Llun 8 Ebrill 2013 ymlaen am gyfnod sydd heb fod yn fwy na 18 mis. Nid oes disgwyl y bydd angen mwy na 10 wythnos i ddod i ben â'r gwaith.
Llwybr arall	Dim.

D.S. Bydd mynediad i gerddwyr YN UNIG sy'n byw yn y strydoedd dan sylw.

NB: Pedestrian access for residents ONLY will be maintained

Dyddiedig 4 Ebril 2013.

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.

NEWS FROM BARRY MEN'S FORUM

'The dog sled dash that saved lives'

THE speaker at the Barry Men's Forum meeting last week was one of the members, Mr Mike Cheeseman, who gave a very interesting and illustrated talk about dog sled racing.

He had become interested in it while on holiday in Alaska, where he had enjoyed his first dog sled ride.

The sledge looked like a wooden supermarket trolley, tied to a pair of skis with bits of string. He confessed his worry at being dragged along on a 40-foot tow rope at speeds of up to 20mph, by a pack of hungry dogs, just 12 inches above the snow, with trees either side of the track, and no brakes or real means of steering.

He highlighted the experience with a video, where the sled vibration was obvious, and the speed was terrifying.

He detailed the history of dog sled racing, which started in Alaska in the 1890s when the Klondike Gold Rush started, and how it is now the national sport.

In 1925, a diphtheria epidemic hit the country, after an earlier influenza one had wiped out the 200 inhabitants of the settlement of Wales in Alaska. (The township has since been re-populated and today has a population of 150).

When the diphtheria outbreak occurred, it was taken very seriously due to the earlier epidemic.

There was an antitoxin serum, which could overcome the diphtheria, but as the settlements of Nome and Wales were more than 1,000 miles from Anchorage, where the serum was available, an epic sled journey was undertaken to deliver it to town. It arrived just in time to save many people from dying.

In 1973, the 'Iditrod' race was initiated, which retraced the original journey of 1,065 miles over snow and ice on sledges pulled by dogs, and only once in 40 years has the original time been beaten.

The race is now the subject of numerous rules and regulations to prevent any cruelty to the dogs, but even so, it evoked much discussion by the Forum members afterwards, as to whether the event is cruel for the dogs, and should be banned, or whether, as others argue, the dogs wouldn't run if they didn't enjoy it.

An invite is open to all to come along to The Barry Men's Forum which meet at Windsor Road Church Hall every Thursday morning at 10.15am. On Thursday, April 11, the speaker will be Hannah Lewis, whose talk is about "Age Discrimination & Stereotyping".

For further information, contact the chairman, Peter Westcott on 029 2059 4881. **PMW**

'Beware rogue traders' POLICE WARNING

POLICE are warning householders not to fall victim to rogue traders who call at their homes offering to carry out work, after an elderly couple in Barry were approached by two people offering to wash down their driveway.

A spokesperson said that at around 2.15pm on Monday, March 25 a man asked the couple if they would like him to carry out work on their driveway, which involved cleaning and spraying their driveway with a polish. They then agreed a price.

"When he said he had completed the work, the man then asked the residents for payment which, he said, was a figure considerably more than the agreed price."

The man is described as white with a dark complexion, approximately 40 years old, fat and with dark curly hair.

He was accompanied by a boy who was about 11 years old with light brown hair. They were travelling in a blue or green coloured van with the words Jet Wash written in black, with a white background on the side.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Barry CID on 01446 731606, 101, or Crimestoppers free on 0800 555111, and quote reference 62130088826.

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Dinas churches unite to proclaim Easter message

GOOD FRIDAY saw the churches in Dinas Powys come together in a 'Walk of Witness' that commenced with a short service in the centre of the old village.

The Rev Chris Seaton of St Peters spoke on the Easter message to the crowd.

The chair of the local Council of Churches, Brian West, of the Baptist Church welcomed everyone to the service.

After the open air service which included old favourites such as 'Amazing Grace', 'There is a Green Hill' and 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross' there was a procession through Dinas Powys to Bethesda Chapel.

At the chapel a short address was given by Rob James of Pembroke, who was visiting Dinas Powys Baptist Church. Afterwards everyone enjoyed hot cross buns.

Chris Franks

ABOVE: Roger Newberry with the message 'Jesus said I am the way and the truth and the life'.

The Pic 'n' Mix Circus in Barry High Street fun

Russell Wells of Pic 'n' Mix Circus provided lots of entertainment for local youngsters visiting High Street, Barry, over the Easter period.

Sully Shamboogie Guitar Workshop

The Shamboogie Guitar Workshop continues at Sully Sports and Social club on Wednesday, April 17.

Registration is from 7.30pm and is £5 per person per annum.The session fee is £2.

All ages from 16 to 70 are welcome, whether you are a player or learner. Pick your style, such as rock, blues, folk, etc and we will try to set up a session for you.

Sessions are every other Wednesday from 7.30pm to 10.30pm

Exess funds at the end of the fiscal year will go to a charity nominated by a vote of members. For further infomation, contact Mr Harry Ford on 01446 400894.

Easter cheer for Sully hospice

BARRY funeral directors, husband and wife Lyndsay and Nicola Ellis of The Vale Funeral Service, collected over 60 Easter eggs for the children of Ty Hafan hospice in Sully.

Nicola wishes to thank everyone for their overwhelming support and this proves that our community all joins together to support worthwhile causes.

The Easter eggs were donated to Ty Hafan on Wednesday, and to see the children so happy was very emotional .

ABOVE: Liam and Jenson Rees.

Barry brothers collect more silverware

ON Easter Sunday, the Lordswood Combat Tri series took place in Birmingham.

Brothers Liam Rees (15) and Jenson Rees (seven) from Barry competed.

Jenson fought in the 4ft 2 and under category and took second place.

Liam was next, in the advanced boys 5ft 2 and over, where he came a respectable second. In addition to the boys' category, Liam entered the men's 75kg and under category, were he also took second place.

Finally, he entered men's 75kg and over category, where some competitors were double his weight. He fought through, round by round, and emerged as the winner!

LR

Easter bonnets on High Street

The crowds came to High Street in Barry on Easter Saturday and brought their Easter bonnets with them for a colourful parade organised by the High Street Traders.

The competition was judged by Barry Town Council Mayor, Coun Les Sword, Jane Hutt AM and Alun Cairns MP.

Jane Hutt said: "It was great to see so many Easter bonnets in High Street for this popular event, supported by families and enjoyed by the children and adults who took part.

"Thank you to the High Street Traders for making this such a successful and enjoyable parade with entertainment and cake making at Hubanas!"

MP congratulates Barry winners in Rotary's 'Youth Speaks' championship

FOLLOWING a contest arranged by Rotarians, Alun Cairns MP congratulated pupils at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive on winning the seniors division at the Youth Speaks championship for south Wales, held in Barry.

The Vale MP was one of the judges at the competition, held at the Cardiff and Vale College.

"Over 51 pupils competed from 15 schools across south Wales in what proved to be a tightly fought debating challenge" he said.

"Aimee Delaney, Lissie Warrington and Sarah Jayne Griffiths from Bryn Hafren did a superb job. It was a fantastic afternoon of high-calibre competition.

"Barry Rotary do so much fantastic work and activities that make a real contribution to the lives of others in the community. Members work really hard to raise money for community projects and local charities, and the national Youth Speaks competition really promotes the educational achievements of young people.

"I want to wish Aimee, Lissie and Sarah Jayne the very best of luck as they go through to the next round on April 15."

ABOVE: Vale MP Alun Cairns with Aimee Delaney, Lissie Warrington and Sarah Jayne Griffiths.

Local schools on top form in public speaking competition

ABOVE: Capt Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards presenting a cup and individual team member certificates to Barry Comprehensive School.

REPORT and PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN.

A SCHOOL from Barry featured strongly in a recent national public speaking competition.

The aim of the ESU (English-Speaking Union) is to promote the use of the English language throughout the World.

Out of Welsh 28 schools who competed this year, seven reached the Welsh National Final of the unions public speaking competition, which was held in Ty Hywel at the invitation of the Presiding Officer of The National Assembly for Wales, Rosemary Butler AM.

The schools were:- Argoed High; Barry Comprehensive; Brynteg Comprehensive, Bridgend; Ffynone House; Haberdashers' Monmouth School for Girls; Treorchy Comprehensive and Pen y Dre Comprehensive.

Unfortunately, Pen y Dre could not attend due to illness among its team members.

The three judges were: Mrs Muriel Harrison: Dr Norma Lloyd-Nesling and Charles Middleton.

A Welcome was given to the schools by Derek W. Morgan, OBE DL, the chairman of ESU S Wales, of Merthyr Mawr, Bridgend.

A trophy and individual team member certificates were presented to each team by Capt. Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards, the president of ESU S Wales, and the individual awards were presented by Dr Peter Beck, the Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan.

The awards were as follows:

Highly commended chairman – Thomas Klee of Barry Comprehensive School.

Highly commended speaker – Thomas Prosser of Brynteg Comprehensive School.

Highly commended questioner – Julia Pearson of Haberdashers' School for Girls.

The Challenge Shield runners-up were the Haberdashers' Monmouth School for Girls, while the winners, Treorchy Comprehensive School, were presented with the Fairwood Trust Challenge Shield by Claire Clancy, chief executive and clerk of The National Assembly for Wales.

In his summing up, Derek Morgan commended all the students who had taken part and commented on the lengthy deliberations of the judges, who had a very difficult task, given the very high standard of the presentations.

ABOVE: Dr Peter Beck presenting the highly commended speaker certificate to Thomas Klee of Barry Comprehensive School.

Jane Hutt and Hannah Fitt of SAFE Foundation at the AGM

Vale AM finds out how Barry charity is working in the Third World

THE Barry-based SAFE Foundation has made impressive progress in reaching out to communities across the developing world, supporting small scale projects with imagination, skill and respect for the needs and views of beneficiaries.

This was clear at their recent AGM, held at the Wharf in Cardiff Bay, attended by Vale AM Jane Hutt, with displays and reports on their pioneering work presented by Hannah Fitt.

SAFE is reaching out for new supporters and members as it take its work forward across the world involving young people in Wales.

The Foundation was founded by twin sisters from Barry, Lucy Dickenson and Hannah Fitt. Lucy Dickenson, who was tragically killed in a car accident in Zambia last year, is featured in the new Barry Women's Trail, which was launched on International Women's Day by the Vale Council in memory of outstanding women of Barry.

Abi (eight) is splashing out for Marie Curie charity!

WITH only four weeks left to enter Swimathon 2013, Marie Curie Cancer Care is encouraging local people to sign up for the world's biggest fundraising swim.

Swimathon hits over 615 pools across the UK between April 26-28. Funds raised by Swimathon will help support Marie Curie nurses who provide free nursing care to people with terminal illnesses, in the place of their choice.

Abi Mai Alice Fox, who is just eight years old, has signed up for a session at Barry pool and has so far raised an amazing £1,120 .

Her father Mike, said: "Eight weeks ago, Abi picked up a flyer for the Swimathon 2013 and asked if she could do it for Marie Curie.

"I glanced at the details and noted that the minimum distance to qualify was 1.5km and said to Abi that I thought it was a little too far for an eight year old. She was upset.

"Later that week, her swimming lesson was confined to getting distance swimming badges and Abi was going for her 800m badge. At 800m, Abi was stopped by her instructor. Amidst applause from a proud dad and grandparents, she pushed her goggles off her face, gave me the thumbs up and asked her instructor if she could do more.

"Not only did she get her 800m badge, she then sailed through her 1,000m badge, smashed her 1,500m badge and finally finished on the 1,600m (one mile) badge, to applause from everybody watching from the gallery and her instructor.

"After changing and a well-earned treat, she said: "Dad, can I now do the Swimathon for Marie Curie? Wow, I did not see that one coming!

"As you can see, Abi is tenacious and our motto of 'I can do anything and anything is possible' really does mean something to her," he added.

Karen Jones, fundraising manager at the Marie Curie Hospice, Cardiff and the Vale, said: "Last year, swimmers took part across a number of pools in south Wales and together raised a brilliant £16,742 for Marie Curie Cancer Care. We hope to raise even more in 2013, and want to let people know it's not too late to sign up and take part."

Swimathon participants can choose from the 5k, 2.5k or 1.5k individual challenges, or take on Swimathon as part of a team in the Team 5k or Team 1.5k distance challenges.

It is open to all ages and abilities and provides a great form of exercise, which can help to relax the mind and body and also build endurance, muscle strength and cardio-vascular fitness.

Entries are open until April 24, at www.swimathon.org. For more information about Marie Curie Cancer Care, visit www.mariecurie.org.uk

Abi Fox is tackling the swimathon.

Atlantic College students' talents put to good cause

PEOPLE in the Vale are familiar with the presence of students at the United World College, Atlantic College, but don't have many opportunities to see their talents.

On March 24, the AC students organised an elegant evening of entertainment in the magnificent Bradenstoke Hall in the college.

As the title implies, this was a classical recital played by students from several countries. The pieces varied from the classics to modern.

All were well-rehearsed and beautifully performed by the students.

There were performances on the violin, guitar, cello and harp. The 'sister act' by Emma and Naomi Woo was a triumph.

Emma Woo from Canada is no stranger to Vale music lovers because she performed at the Vale Music Festival last year.

This year, the Bradenstoke Hall audience was treated to a performance by her sister Naomi, who has just graduated in music from Yale University.

Admission was free, but donations were collected in aid of CBM (the Overseas Disability Charity). This year the students have raised over £230 for CBM.

The enthusiastic, able leaders are Lilit Grigoryan (Armenia) and Mohammad Fakhoury (Jordan). They also were our comperes for the evening.

Every week a group of students meet to discuss disability issues; exploring ways of raising awareness about these issues as well as to fundraise for CBM.

Students also ran a stall to raise funds at the St Donat's Christmas Fair.

CBM is committed to improving the quality of life of people with disabilities and those at risk from disability. It works in around 70 of the poorest countries of the world reaching more than 25 million people each year.

If you would like to volunteer your time to this worthy cause contact Lee Searle, the volunteer manager for CBM UK on 02920 444062 or e-mail lees@cbmuk.org.uk; or go to www.cbmuk.org.uk.

I am also available to give talks on the work of CBM to schools, churches or other organisations catering from children to adults. If you are interested in a talk, email me at: *sian.tesni@cbm.org.*

SIAN TESNI

Clodagh strikes gold in council's Christmas card competition

AMONG pupils from 30 Vale schools who collected used Christmas cards for the council's annual recycling competition, Clodagh McKechnie from Stanwell School collected 7,250 cards to win a £100 gift card.

Clodagh McKechnie.

Robbie Hawkins from St David's Church in Wales Primary School clinched the silver £75 prize with an awesome 6,030 cards, while Ceri Jauncey from St Illtyd Primary School secured third place.

Mike Farrell, headteacher at Ysgol Erw'r Delyn in Penarth, was delighted to hear of his school's success in the schools category.

"We're thrilled to win the £100 first prize in the schools category for the second year," he said. "We're a small school of 50 pupils, yet thanks to fabulous community support our total of over 11,000 cards averages out at 225 cards per pupil."

St Illtyd Primary School in Llantwit Major scooped second place and £75, while Murch Junior School came in third with their total averaging out at just short of 100 cards collected by each pupil.

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Vale Foodbank hands out 3,000th parcel

RIGHT: Foodbank organiser Susan Lloyd Selby, Barry Rotary club president John Shapland, and Town Mayor, Coun Les Sword, with some of the supplies donated for Easter.

AS the Vale Foodbank passed the milestone of handing out its 3,000th parcel of food after only 18 months of operation, it was visited by the Mayor of Barry, Coun Les Sword.

The mayor was accompanied by members of Barry Rotary Club, who were handing over their monthly donation of food – including some extras for those unfortunate enough to be needing support over the Easter period.

The mayor praised the Foodbank's work and the dedication of all the volunteers involved, and thanked the Rotary Club for supporting a valuable local service. He said that in times of stress, local hardship needed to come first.

Carl Kerr, speaking on behalf of the Rotary Club, said that support for the Foodbank would not be possible without the money raised from the annual fireworks.

Through the mayor, he especially thanked the town council who are currently major sponsors. Without this, together with the invaluable help of the Vale Council, the donations to the Foodbank and other local charities would not be possible.

The organiser of the Vale Foodbank, Susan Lloyd-Selby, said it was inspiring for the team to be involved in such a worthwhile activity.

She was expecting that the welfare changes now coming into effect would put more demand on the Foodbank, and thanked both the Rotary Club and the town council for supporting their work.

Robin Pitcher

Penarth Ramblers enjoy Bonvilston countryside

NOVICES Alison and Louise did themselves proud on their first walk for the group through the lovely countryside around Bonvilston.

Eleven walkers and Megan the black Labrador joined them mid-week in the car park of the Red Lion in Bonvilston and, leaving the noisy A48 behind, they entered fields near the 15th tee of Cottrell Park Golf Club before following a road leading to Peterston-super-Ely.

Crossing a stile, ahead of them lay the ruins of an old piggery, signified by the outline of a pig's head high up on the side of the building, but around them a low mist hung over the surrounding countryside.

Following a well-signed footpath diversion around a fenced field, the group exited onto a road to eventually reach Caerwigau Isaf where, in the 12th century, fertile land at Caerwigau was acquired by the Norman family of the de Bonvils.

Some land was rented out to the Knights Hospitaller, who in turn rented it to the monks of Margam, who may have lived in a moated site nearby in a wood. An old manor house was founded there during Tudor times and today Caerwigau is a Grade II listed building.

Morning coffee was enjoyed in the shelter of a small dell with a brook running through, with huge clumps of snowdrops adorning the banks under the green mossy-coated trees.

A very tall three-stepped stile was crossed on the way to Warren Mill Animal Farm, which is set in 40 acres and where the old farmhouse, originally a corn mill, stands beside the old millpond, where a boat in the shape of a massive swan was moored.

A muddy forestry track led them on through a field containing new lambs and, entering wide paths through a forestry plantation where the different varieties of trees were marked by wooden signs, they reached Maerdy Newydd Farm, where they spotted geese.

The resident young dogs were delighted to give the group and Meg a welcome and, having followed them up the lane, had to be rescued by their owners. A group of timid Alpacas were grazing in a nearby field as the group journeyed on through fields, eventually stopping to enjoy lunch with buzzards circling above them.

Exiting across the A48 from Lower Greenway Farm, they passed a field containing Jacob's sheep with their lambs, and near Liege Manor some inquisitive horses. At Ty'n y Coed Farm the group crossed a stream in a delightful green valley and headed back across fields to re-cross the A48 for a drink at the Red Lion, and a chance to thank the landlord for permitting the use of his car park.

Thanks are extended to all the walk leaders who have contributed to the new spring/summer programme with some favourite walks and many brilliant new ones, including two 20-mile hikes in celebration of the groups 20th birthday year. All we need now is some better weather!

On April 6, meet 8.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre for an 11-mile hard walk at Patrishow in the Black Mountains; contact Barrie on 029 2053 0753.

On April 9, meet 8am at Cogan for a 14-mile linear walk from Pontypool to Abergavenny, returning to the start by bus; contact William on 01446 747239.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. To follow the group please log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com.

Joy Strangward

PACT MEETINGS

DYFAN PACT at North Walk Community Centre, North Walk, Barry, on Sunday, April 28, at 7pm.

CASTLELAND PACT at the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, on Monday, April 29, at 7pm.

PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY PACT at Pendoylan School, on Thursday, April 11, at 7.45pm.

COWBRIDGE PACT at Cowbridge Fire Station, on Monday, April 15 at 7pm.

St AUGUSTINES PACT at The Windsor Public House, Windsor Road, Penarth, on Wednesday, April 17, at 7pm.

DINAS POWYS PACT at St Mary's Church Hall, Edith Road, on Monday, April 22, at 7pm.

AM's Surgery

ELUNED PARROTT, AM for South Wales Central, will be holding a surgery on Friday, April 5, at Morrisons Supermarket, Penny Way, Barry, between 1pm and 2pm.

WHAT'S ON - in brief

Councillor's surgery

COUN Philip Clarke (independent) is holding a surgery in the Stewart Road Community Centre (side room), 10am – 12 noon on April 6.

During this period, there is a consultation morning in the main building where residents will be able to provide feedback on amenities they would like to see in Rhoose.

Jumble Sale

1ST Dinas Powys Scout Group Jumble Sale starts at 1.30pm on Saturday, April 6, at the Scout Hall, Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys. Admission is 50p.

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DYFFRYN HOUSE is now able to be viewed by visitors along with its famous gardens.

Work is ongoing at one of the jewels in the Vale. Visitors to the house are even able to view the spectacular ceilings (see below) using bean bags!

PC lines up for Wales in 53rd police dog trials

SOUTH Wales Police are hosting the 53rd National Police Dog Trials from Friday, April 5 to Sunday, April 7, at Margam Country Park.

Swansea based PC Kevin Hughes and police dog Zeena won the competition last year, and the defending champions will be representing Wales on home ground alongside PC Ian Hemburrow and police dog Roxy from Bridgend.

A total of 21 top police dogs and their handlers from Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland will compete – seven each day at Margam Park – where they will tackle phase three of the competition.

The phase three section at Margam Country Park is open to the public daily from 10am – 5pm.

Each phase tests the police dogs and handlers in situations they are likely to experience in an operational environment, but phase one and two are not open to the public.

COWBRIDGE UNDER-12S RUN RIOT AT ABERCWMBOI RFC

COWBRIDGE under-12s travelled to Abercwmboi for the first meeting for a couple of seasons, with just 15 players.

The game started well for Cowbridge, when their pack pushed the Abercwmboi scrum off the ball for number 8 Ruben Williams to pick up and score under the posts. Ioan Williams converted.

Cowbridge were moving the ball from one side of the pitch to the other, dragging the Abercwmboi defence with them. After six phases, full-back Tom Humphreys found himself with an easy run in unopposed.

Even the forwards were getting into the act of free flowing rugby, with powerful runs by Jack Little and Luke Conner. Quick recycled ball allowed outside-half Evan Thomas to feed second row Jack Dixon, lurking out on the touch line.

With the try line in touching distance, Dixon unselfishly gave a simple pass to Barny Langton-Cryer to score in the corner, making it Abercwmboi 0 – Cowbridge 17.

Not to be out done, the forwards began to get into the try scoring mode, with Luke Conner powering over the line with a couple of defenders on his back. Ioan Williams converted.

Cowbridge continued to play some great running rugby. With the defence struggling to cover the ground, scrum-half Ioan Williams produced a couple of dummies and a strong hand off to score an individual try. R Williams converted.

Following another scrum against the head, Benji Williams scored his first try of the season for the under-12s, after stepping up from the under-11s. Ioan Williams converted.

Centre Harry Ridge made a great catch from a clearing kick and quick recycled ball allowed Evan Thomas, to walk in. Ioan Williams converted. The half-time score was Abercwmboi 0 – Cowbridge 45.

After a scrappy first 10 minutes Cowbridge finally broke through after the backs put Ruben Williams in the clear.

The final try came again from a great solo effort by Ioan Williams, who threw a couple of dummies and found himself clear.

With no covering defence, he scored the game's final try, at which point the referee called the game to a close. **Abercwmboi 0 – Cowbridge 55.**

GJ

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ST CYRES SCHOOL CELEBRATES ITS YOUNG AWARD WINNERS' EFFORTS!

IN the last school week before Easter, St Cyres School held its annual awards evening to celebrate the efforts, achievements and progress of pupils in years 7 – 10.

A school spokesman said: "This is always a very important day in the St Cyres School calendar because it gives staff and governors the opportunity to reward many of the pupils of whom we are so proud.

"It is always a very difficult process to select the winners, as so many of our pupils make us proud on a daily basis."

This year there were 37 award winners and the categories ranged from sporting and music awards to prizes for academic achievement and progress.

There were also several special awards, including the David Davies Award for Endeavour, the Friends of St Cyres Award for the most inspirational pupil, and the Governors' Award for the most improved pupil.

The school is always grateful for the generosity of local businesses and others who sponsor some of the awards. This year, sponsors included JM Textiles, Leadbitter, CAVMS and Glen Cleaning.

We were particularly pleased to recieve a very generous donation from a former pupil, Jonathan Crocker, who donated an award for excellence in the STEM Subjects.

Jonathan is now working in London for a very prestigious financial institution and he typifies the St Cyres ethos – he is a success but remembers his roots and wants to give something back.

Our many special guests, including school governors and staff, Vale of Glamorgan councillors and the Penarth Town Mayor, Coun Philip Rapier, were entertained on the evening by some of the musical talent of our school.

Felix Peterken wowed the audience with his saxophone jazz performance of Benny Golson's 'Five Spot after Dark', Ellis Hopkins played Bach's 'Air' masterfully on the piano and Emily Thorne produced an exceptional performance on the violin, playing Vivaldi's 'Concerto in A Minor'.

The regional managing director of Leadbitter, the construction company building our new school, Mr Bob Bradley, was our guest speaker this year and provided pupils with some sage advice for ensuring the bright futures of which they are capable.

Sasha Winton receiving the David Davies Award from the Penarth Mayor, Coun Philip Rapier.

AWARD WINNERS

The Governors' Award: *Nadine Ismail;*
The Friends Award: *Kora Blair*;
David Davies Award: *Sasha Winton*;
Contribution to the School Community: *Sannan Iqbal;* Contribution to Charity and Community: *Rebecca Cummings;* Literacy Award : *Mark Masangkay*;

Outstanding progress

Year-7 (JM Textiles): *Euan Mackay*;
Year-7 (JM Textiles): *Hannah Lewis*;
Year-8 (Leadbitter) : *Sophie Burman*;
Year-9 (Leadbitter): *Matthew Jackson*;
Year-10 (Glen Cleaning): *Shauna-Leigh Ellis*;

Sports awards

Sporting achievement: *Evie Brown*; Sporting achievement: *Molly Owen-Ffoulkes*; Sporting achievement: *Finlay Davies*; Sporting achievement: *James Head*;

Musical achievements:

John Leach Award for Extra-Curricular Activities: *Felix Peterken*; Contribution to Performance in School: *Rebekah West*; Most Promising Musician: *Lauren Jagger*; Most Improved Musician: *Daniel Parfitt*.

Departmental awards:

Mathematics: *Zakariya Hassan*; English: *Eleni Harfoot;* Science: *Jack Pickford*; Art: *Carys Inker*; Business Studies: *Daniel Lock*; Geography: *Amy Morgan;* History: *Rachel Prew*; ICT: *Aaron Davies*; MFL: *Autumn Boswell*; Music: *Ellis Hopkins*; PE: *Nawaf Saleh*;Performing Arts: *Coby Smith;* Photography: *Beth Langford*; RE: *Marion Podesta*; Technology: *Matthew Wright;* Welsh : *Millie Baston*; Welsh Baccalaureate: *Sihaam Arwo*; STEM Subjects: *Jiggy Rodriguez.*

Euan Mackay receives the JM Textiles Award for Outstanding Progress in year-7.

Kora Blair collects the Friends of St Cyres Award for Inspiration to Others from the Chair of the Friends, Mrs Jackie Pile.

Jiggy Rodriguez receives the STEM Award from St Cyres head girl, Eloise Johnson.

Mark Masangkay receives the Literacy Award from LRC Manager, Mrs. Johnson.

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GETHIN'S DESPAIR TURNS TO JOY...

Cochlear implant team celebrates centenary success

LEFT: From left to right: Alan Gibbon, audiologist; Gethin Williams, 100th cochlear implant patient; Ann Stanton, Gethin's mum; and Carol Llewellyn, hearing therapist.

A 21-year-old chef who lost his hearing two years ago has become the 100th patient to have his hearing restored using a cochlear implant.

At first Gethin Williams, from Cefn Glas, started to suffer from tinnitus (a ringing in the ear), before developing profound deafness.

He tried using ordinary hearing aids, but found he still wasn't able to hear. So he was referred to the cochlear implant team at the Princess of Wales Hospital to see if he was suitable for the device.

Gethin's treatment was successful, with his hearing now almost perfect.

"Losing my hearing had a huge impact on my life.

"I turned into a hermit. I couldn't socialise with my friends, or do simple things like go out for a meal or to the cinema.

"If I did go anywhere, my mum had to come with me just in case anyone tried to talk to me. I couldn't work and I had to sell my car.

"Since having the implant, I can hear everything; I don't struggle at all.

"The difference is amazing, and I feel as though everything has gone back to normal.

"Within a few weeks of the implant I had a new job, and I've just bought a new car.

"Even simple things such as hearing how much something costs in a shop has helped to boost my confidence.

"The team are absolutely fantastic and really supportive. I couldn't have asked them for more."

Alan Gibbon, audiologist at the Princess of Wales Hospital, added: "It is fantastic to see how well Gethin is progressing, especially as it has only been a few months since his surgery.

"The level of success differs from patient to patient, and they will always be classed as having a hearing loss.

"However, all patients should be able to have a normal conversation, and their outcomes are better than with hearing aids."

A cochlear implant is placed under the skin behind the ear, and uses a small electrode to connect it to the cochlea (the part of the ear which hears).

When it picks up a noise or sound, it uses an electrical impulse to stimulate the cochlea to hear it.

Before they are accepted for a cochlear implant, a patient is assessed by every member of the team, which includes consultant surgeons, hearing therapists, audiologists and speech and language therapists.

As it is major surgery, the team need to be sure the patient is prepared and would benefit from the procedure.

The cochlear implant team at the Princess of Wales Hospital are one of only three in Wales.

They treat patients of all ages from Bridgend to Aberystwyth and some parts of mid-Wales.

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Police plea over missing man

Ceri Stokes.

POLICE are appealing to the public for information on the whereabouts of 30-year-old Ceri Stokes, from Guthrie Street in Barry who is wanted for breach of bail conditions and failing to appear at court.

He is said to be white, 5ft 10ins tall, with short brown hair and brown eyes. He is known to have strong connections with the Barry and Penarth areas.

LOCAL PRE-SCHOOL'S GREAT EASTER FUN DAY

COLWINSTON Pre-school had a "fantastic Easter Fun Day" on Monday, and raised over £500 with an Easter bonnet competition, Easter crafts, an Easter egg hunt and a suprise visit from the Easter Bunny himself. The children had a fabulous time!

Pictures by Gemma Griffiths Photography

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Theatre school in *Cats* anniversary celebration

STAGECOACH Theatre Arts celebrated its 25th anniversary in style with an outstanding performance of the world-renowned musical at the NIA, Birmingham.

Andrew Lloyd Webber invited the company to stage it, and gave permission for the extensive arena production, in which 3,000 young performers, from Stagecoach schools, nationally and internationally, took part.

Of those performers, 101 were local children from Stagecoach Bridgend and Cowbridge.

Jonathan and Charlotte, the operatic duo of *Britain's Got Talent* fame, opened the show with an emotional performance to the star-studded crowd of 12,000!

Charlotte has been a Stagecoach student for more than 11 years.

Veronica Bennetts, director of education for Stagecoach, said: "We are so proud of each and every one of our 3,000 students who took part in our anniversary celebrations."

Peter Brayshaw, the vice-president of operations at The Really Useful Group Limited, attended the show and declared it "A triumph!".

Stagecoach Bridgend and Cowbridge are now enrolling for the summer term and holiday workshops. Call Helene or Rob on 01446 781454 for further information.

ABOVE:
Four of the Stagecoach students who took featured roles in the production.

BARRY SCHOOL GROUP'S NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of 'AIAITH', former pupils of Ysgol Sant Baruc, will be on Friday, April 5 at 8pm in the Mount Sorrel, Barry. A spokeswoman said: "Don't worry if you think that your Welsh is a bit rusty – you'll be surprised how much you remember! We all had a great catch-up in our last meeting and it was fantastic to see so many familiar faces."

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National Pet Month 2013

1st April to 6th May

LEFT: Gimli, who belongs to Maggie from Little Mill Cattery, having a nice stretch - it's an easy life being a cat!

THE PUBLIC'S CHANCE TO SHOW HOW MUCH THEY CARE

BRITAIN has long been seen as a nation of animal lovers and very soon the great pet owning public has a chance to prove it now that National Pet Month (April 1 – May 6, 2013) is here.

With almost 50 per cent of UK households owning at least one pet, this national celebration offers pet fans across the UK the chance to come together and raise money for their favourite pet charities by staging and attending a wide variety of events.

Now in its 24th year, National Pet Month offers a lifeline to pet charities throughout the country and sees all kinds of organisations taking part – from nurseries and schools to colleges, workplaces, clubs, churches, community groups, pet stores, veterinary clinics and many others.

There will also be competitions running throughout the campaign, plus special school lesson plans to help youngsters learn about the importance of looking after pets properly.

Last year's fun events included everything from special veterinary open days and sponsored dog walks to bake sales, pet shows, pet fashion parades and special church services for animals and their owners.

Keep fit queen and pet owner Rosemary Conley is among a host of celebrities supporting this year's National Pet Month.

"It's really important for people to own a pet because it makes them think, not just about themselves, but about caring for another being," says pet owning Rosemary, who is lending her support to the campaign for the second year running.

"Pets are a tonic for your health, both mentally and physically," she adds.

This year's National Pet Month theme is 'Your Pets and You; companions for life' which looks at the companionship side of owning a pet and the health benefits that come with pet ownership.

Phil Sketchley, National Pet Month chairman explains: "Whether you are a toddler or a pensioner, a pet can be a truly wonderful companion, helping to reduce anxiety and instill a sense of calm.

"Scientific research suggests there are numerous associated health benefits of pet ownership which we'll be highlighting during National Pet Month."

He adds: "Pets really do make people's lives happier and healthier and so what better way to repay them than by encouraging people to spread the responsible pet ownership message and help raise cash for pet charities around the UK?"

To say we British love our pets is an understatement. A survey carried out in 2012 on behalf of the PFMA (Pet Food Manufacturers' Association) proved beyond all doubt just how much we like to share our lives with animals.

It revealed:

- 48 per cent of UK households have at least one pet – that's the equivalent of 13 million households around the country.
- 8 million cats and 8 million dogs share their lives with us in the UK.
- 23 per cent of UK households own at least one dog
- 19 per cent of UK households own at least one cat
- There are approximately 67 million pets in the UK

Animal fans from across the country are asked to show their support for National Pet Month by staging and attending fundraising events for local pet charities, taking part in schools projects and competitions and helping spread the word on important pet ownership issues.

"We know how much we Brits love our pets. Now it's time to show just how much by raising cash for our favourite pet charities and encouraging others to look after pets responsibly. Join us and together we can make a difference," says Phil Sketchley.

Anyone can register as a supporter on the National Pet Month website for free on *www.nationalpetmonth.org.uk* where they'll receive a free events pack featuring information on NPM's key messages plus posters and tips on how to successfully stage an event.

People can then register an event on the NPM interactive map on *www.nationalpetmonth.org.uk/events*

Pet fans can follow National Pet Month on Facebook *www.facebook.com/NationalPetMonth* and on Twitter *@NatPetMonthUK*

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Pets R Us boss Steve Lane's dog is called Lois – Lois Lane!

Rhian of Petherton Vets with Flossie and Flynn, her two Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.

Meet Button

MAESTEG Animal Welfare Society (MAWS) would like to introduce Button.

Button is about two years old, and has big yellow eyes and a stripe down her face. She is very friendly and would love a quiet home.

She is used to dogs and has a very quiet nature. She is vaccinated, neutered and microchipped.

She would make a lovely companion and gets on with other cats.

MAWS has lots more cats to choose from - telephone Jan on 01656 721496.

ABOVE: Button would make a great companion.

BURELL HAS NEW SHOES!

ABOVE: Meet Burell, enjoying the sunshine and his new shoes. He has had remedial shoeing to help with a hock problem, thanks to Brian, Mike and Rory at Hughes Farriers.

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

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Any queries call 07972 510 158

Honours even in local under-9 derby fixture

IN total contrast to the arctic weather the previous week, the Cowbridge under-9s enjoyed glorious sunshine for their local home derby with Bridgend Sports on Easter Sunday.

Eleven of the squad were prised away from their Easter eggs and played two halves in what proved to be a very entertaining and thrilling game.

The game was played with nine-a-side as Bridgend Sports had the bare nine with Cowbridge playing two rolling subs.

The first half saw the Sports take an early lead as they moved the ball well to both sides of the field. However, this early score was cancelled out by a Steffan Evans try, but Cowbridge once again fell behind as the Sports stretched the Cowbridge defence out wide.

Silky running from Ruben Davies once again levelled matters for the home side but Sports pulled ahead through two further tries.

Just before half time Robbie Brown crossed the try line to make the half time score 4-3 to Bridgend Sports.

The second half saw both teams going try for try in a tight battle. Both sides looked to keep the ball alive and some excellent off-loading from the tackle created space for some fine tries to be scored.

Two weaving runs from Ruben Davies resulted in two super tries and, following Cowbridge turning over possession, Akka Guwy squeezed over in the corner in what was an excellent finish.

In the midst of the try scoring Robbie Brown was proving to be a one man wrecking machine for Cowbridge, tackling everything that moved and Rhydian Williams produced a wonderful try saving touchline tackle.

However, the Sports had scored three very good tries of their own in this period and with the score 7-6 to the Sports, the last play of the game was called.

Cowbridge, during this phase of play, showed real composure which was rewarded as Steffan Evans crossed the whitewash to earn a thrilling, well deserved draw.

Squad: Ruben Davies, Will Ryan, Ethan Francis, Lewys Robins, Robbie Brown, Tom Brennan, Rhydian Williams, Akka Guwy, Archie Lloyd, Luke Treadwell and Steffan Evans.

MF

Good news for home buyers!

THE government support for home loans announced in last month's budget has been hailed as a significant step forward for buyers with the two schemes designed to help borrowers who only have a 5 per cent deposit.

The schemes are available to both first time buyers and home-movers and it is hoped that this will encourage lenders to offer better access to low-deposit mortgages.

This announcement, along with increasingly competitive rates being offered by mortgage lenders, should bring new activity to the housing market and, if you aspire to own your own home, may help you to get a foot on the property ladder.

Before plunging headlong into making an offer on a property however, prospective borrowers should take care to assess the types of mortgages that are available and which is best for them.

A low initial rate may come with a very large fee, or may tie you in on a less competitive rate later on so careful research is essential.

Lenders are very choosy about who they will lend to, so taking steps early on to ensure you have a good credit score can make a big difference.

For tips on how to improve your credit score and for independent, whole of market mortgage advice, contact CBK on 0300 303 8525 or email us: info@cbkwales.co.uk.

CBK clear and concise financial advice
84 High Street, Barry CF62 7DX
Telephone: 0300 303 8525
www.cbkwales.co.uk
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CBK & CBK Wales are trading styles of CBK (Swansea) Ltd which is an appointed representative of Tenet Connect Services Ltd which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.
Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up the repayments on the mortgage.
There will be a fee for mortgage advice. The precise amount will depend upon your circumstances, but we estimate that it will be £450.

Funding changes for family cases

From April 1, 2013, public funding (previously known as Legal Aid) will not be available for most family disputes.

At a time when personal circumstances are difficult, people going through divorce or separation deserve certainty when it comes to their legal costs.

Local solicitor Hayley Brain is a specialist in family law and can offer fixed fees for divorce and other services.

She can help with issues concerning children or finances, and give advice on other matters such as separation agreements.

By knowing their costs in advance, clients avoid the worry of unexpected bills.

Let the advice come to you – Hayley will visit clients at their chosen location.

Call her on 07539 339888 or visit www.hayleybrain.co.uk for more information.

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Suffering exam stress? Then help is at hand

DOES exam stress hold you back? Most of us are able to learn and absorb information well, yet when it comes to being tested, some people suffer from 'exam stress' and don't perform to their potential.

Often stress starts months ahead – not only at exam time. Contributing factors include bad experience; lack of confidence or low self esteem and when performance in an exam is linked to our sense of worth as a person, it is quite easy to suffer from perfectionism, or the fear of failure.

The good news is hypnotherapy is a powerful tool which can help students feel more at ease ahead of the exam, more focused and able to assimilate information during studying.

Hypnosis can empower students to concentrate using all their resources towards exam success!

For more information, please contact Sue Pitman on 07795 964 066; or cardiffhypnotherapysolutions@gmail.com

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LETSMOVEIN.co.uk Lettings and Property Management is a new agency based in Llantwit Major.

"We are the new kids on the block," explains Philip Jelinek, "although we have rented out our own properties for a number of years."

For the month of April 'Lets Move In' is offering to 'find a tenant for free' for all local landlords with available property.

All properties are advertised on Rightmove – the UK number one property site.

Tenants are in regular contact with the agency requesting their specific housing needs.

For futher details, contact Philip on 07594 060 337.

Lets Move In .co .uk
Lettings and Property Management

Do you have a property to rent?

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All tenants are reference and credit checked.
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Contact:
07594 060337
Email: philip@letsmovein.co.uk
www.letsmovein.co.uk

rightmove DPS

TOY AND TRAIN SALE

CARDIFF toy and train sale is on Saturday, April 6, from 10.30am to 3pm at Penarth Leisure Centre, CF64 2NS.

It is now established as one of the most popular and largest shows in the south of the UK.

The venue is highly suitable and most accessible. Cogan Railway Station is virtually alongside the centre and ATW operate a highly frequent service from all directions, making the advice 'travel by train' appropriate.

Road connections from the city and from the motorway network are also excellent and there is ample free parking at the centre.

A great caterer in Rita Limbrick operates within the show offering superb fare at reasonable prices, and raising funds for charity at the same time.

Few events will offer the range, quality, quantity and value-for-money. Even in the recent difficult years, toy and train collecting has continued to thrive, mainly due to the efforts of the traders to scale their prices to their customers' ability to finance their hobby.

NEXT GREAT SHOW...
CARDIFF TOY & TRAIN SALE
SATURDAY, 6th APRIL, 2013
10.30am - 3.00pm
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Whether you wish to join one of our own holidays or excursions, or you wish to go away as a group, talk to us and we will discuss the different options available.

For further information, please see our advertisement or come and have a coffee with us in the Age Concern Coffee Shop, Holton Road, Barry, on a Tuesday morning between 9.30am-12.30pm; or alternatively, call 07906 874876 or 01446 736070 after 6pm.

An 'Immaculate' service for all cleaning needs

IMMACULATE Cleaning Services has been running for many years, covering Bridgend and the Vale for all your domestic cleaning and ironing needs.

All our staff are extremely reliable, friendly and very hard working, offering 100 per cent customer satisfaction.

We have a variety of clients, from students, to busy mums, to elderly ladies and gentlemen.

We offer very competitive rates, are fully insured, all staff can be CRB checked and we can also provide fantastic references from our customers.

Due to the wonderful response we had from our 'Spring Clean' offer, we have now extended this until the end of April, where a five-hour or more clean will be 10 per cent off! Book now to avoid disappointment!

FeelGood Factory opens at Royal Glamorgan Hospital

THE first FeelGood Factory in south Wales has recently opened near the Royal Glamorgan Hospital.

Twelve Shapemaster power-assisted machines, which allow users to exercise both passively and actively, have been installed in a comfortable, relaxed friendly atmosphere, and can be used, regardless of size or physical ability.

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www.feelgoodwales.co.uk
(Sterling Drive is next to the CAT factory, just off the roundabout at the north end of the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, on the bus route 122 between Cardiff and Tonypandy)

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Friday 12 April
Evesham & The Blossom Trail. Wonderful tour through delightful scenery & splendid countryside, taking in the towns & villages of Evesham, Pershore & Broadway.
£26 pp inclusive of lunch & The Blossom Tour. Depart 9.30am & return at 6pm.
Full

Tuesday 16 April
Brecon Mountain Railway & Lunch. Depart at 10.30am & Return at 5.30pm.
£27 pp inclusive of lunch & Return Journey on the Brecon Mountain Railway.

Friday 26 April
Lunch at The Hi Tide Inn, Porthcawl. Depart at 11am & Return at 3pm.
£15 pp fully inclusive of Fish & Chips, Bread & Butter & a Cup of Tea/Coffee.

Limited Availability **Tuesday 30 April**
Weston Super Mare. Depart at 10am & Return at 7pm.
£16 pp.

All day excursions include return mini coach travel, door to door collection /drop off service & our friendly/safe drivers.

Short Breaks

Date	Nights	Destination	Accommodation	Board Basis	Price pp
1-5 April	4	Weston-S-Mare	SandBay Holiday Park	DBB	£149
29 April -3May	4	Weston-S-Mare	SandBay Holiday Park	DBB	£159
13-17 May	4	Paignton	The Livermead Hotel	DBB	£269
27-31 May	4	Weston-S-Mare	SandBay Holiday Park	DBB	£174
10-14 June	4	Paignton	The Livermead Hotel	DBB	£279
17-21 June	4	Sherbourne	The Sherbourne	DBB	£199
15-19 July	4	Paignton	The Livermead Hotel	DBB	£299
22-26 July	4	Sherbourne	The Sherbourne	DBB	£219
19-23 August	4	Paignton	The Livermead Hotel	DBB	£299
23-27 September	4	Sherbourne	The Sherbourne	DBB	£199
21-25 October ** Flashback to the 40's & 50's	4	Weston-S-Mare	SandBay Holiday Park	DBB	£182
18-22 November ** Turkey & Tinsel	4	Weston-S-Mare	SandBay Holiday Park	DBB	£199

T's & C's apply, please see website for details

For further information please call:
07906 874876 or 01446 736070 after 6pm.
Email: agtravel@live.co.uk **www.ag-travel.co.uk**

Out and About with The GEM

Danny Boyle's latest 'en-Trances' you in a mind-bending thriller

DANNY Boyle has slowly and steadily shown that he is one of the finest directors working in cinema today.

Blending high-octane visuals with a strong sense of story, his films always make for a satisfying viewing experience, and now with his stock never higher, thanks to the one-two punch of *Slumdog Millionaire* and *127 Hours*, expectations are huge for his next work.

Trance stars James McAvoy as Simon, an art auctioneer working with underworld boss Franck (Vincent Cassel) to plot the heist of an artwork worth millions. When Simon is knocked unconcious, he loses all memory of where he has stored the artwork, and is taken to a hypnotherapist (Rosario Dawson); but when they enter Simon's psyche, the lines between truth and fiction blur and the stakes become even bigger than they were before...

Given that in the last four years Danny Boyle has gone from being an esteemed director to a national treasure (and one who won't accept a knighthood), the hype and expectation surrounding his films now is huge, even if the set-up and execution still remains firmly rooted in Boyle's small in scale but broad in execution ideology.

Re-entering the world of a crime thriller where you can never quite trust the characters and their motivations, a world where he made his breakthrough in *Shallow Grave*, *Trance* is the work of a director who has an unwavering sense of confidence and belief in his own abilities; but rather than turn this into an ego massage of filmic proportions, *Trance* sees Boyle near the top of his game – and loving every minute of it.

Kicking things off with a potted history of art heists, Boyle's signature style soon comes into play as fast cuts, close-ups and handheld cameras all play their part in creating a kinetic feast for the eyes.

With a clean and crisp palette, Boyle takes great delight in playing on the ambiguity of the story and the characters, the use of mirrors and reflections in his shots emphasising that these characters are rarely what they seem, and, as you would expect, the film looks absolutely superb.

There are few directors who can create such ragged beauty on a cinema screen and Boyle is one of them (if rumours of a seat at the 007 directing table are true, imagine that James Bond film!) The film is a progression of wonderfully framed shots that are simply stunning.

With the story weighing heavily on the central threesome of James McAvoy, Vincent Cassel and Rosario Dawson, their performances are all up to the task.

McAvoy finds himself put through the wringer somewhat as the man whose memory (or lack of it) could have fatal consequences, and while showing the vulnerability of a man in this position, he also shows the hidden layers that suggest more is afoot.

The same can be said of Dawson, playing what in normal hands would be a character caught in the middle of some dastardly deeds but here, with a sugestive look, her motives are constantly under scrutiny, either a puppeteer or just a fly caught in the spider's web.

Cassel's character too, is more than the sum of the parts, a crook but one that in his hands goes from being a player to being played and back again, his mask of control slipping as events unfold.

Occasional Boyle collaborator John Hodge (he also did the screenplays for, among others, *Trainspotting* and *The Beach)* does a great job of adapting Joe Ahearne's original script (it was made as a TV movie in 2001), bringing a realism and depth to proceedings, while never letting the twisty-turny nature of the story overpower the film.

It's most definitely a film that will stand up to repeat viewings, as you find yourself questioning what is real and what is suggestion, and with a kicker of an ending that ties the story together nicely, while still keeping you on your toes, *Trance* is a film that is most definitely worth being hypnotised by.

VERDICT - Striking while the iron is most definitely hot, *Trance* is another success for Danny Boyle. The mind-bending story keeps you engaged throughout, as do the fine performances from a wonderful cast, but Boyle's visual sense has never been more wonderfully attuned than here; an incredible piece of work. *Highly recommended*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Inception* (2010), *Shallow Grave* (1994)

by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

Councillors' Surgery

WARD councillors Fred Johnson, Neil Moore and Anne Moore will be holding a surgery in Cadoxton Moors community centre, Cadoxton, on Saturday, April 6, from 10.30am to 11.30am; all are welcome.

Discover Bridgend's past

FAMILIES can discover more about Bridgend county borough's rich and fascinating history at a special event at Pencoed College on Saturday, April 6, between 10am and 1.30pm.

The free 'This is YOUR Heritage 2013' event is being supported by Reach, Bridgend County Borough Council's rural development programme, and will show what local life was like throughout the ages.

An interactive timeline, fun workshops, displays and talks from local history groups, traditional craft stalls and activities will all create an interesting morning that delves into Bridgend county borough's past.

For further information contact Nicola Lewis on 01656 815080 or email Nicola.lewis3@bridgend.gov.uk.

You can also find out more about local history at www.bridgendsheritage.co.uk

Meeting postponed

COWBRIDGE Royal British Legion has cancelled its meeting on April 9 and it will take place on April 29 at the Lesser Hall at 7.30 pm.

Floral Society

BARRY Floral Society meets on April 9, when Mrs Delyth Price will give a demonstration, 'Colours Rich and Glorious'.

Meetings are held at the St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry, at 2.15 pm.

New members are always welcome.

Cavatina Singers 'Dial M for Music'

AT a well attended afternoon concert in the newly-renovated All Saints' Church, Penarth, Cavatina Singers dialled 'M for Music' as their concert theme.

They were ably conducted by their music director Victoria Pilley and accompanied on the piano by Philip May.

The choir was supported by soloists and friends currently studying at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

The essence of the programme was that all pieces related one way or another to the letter 'M', be it the name of the composer (Mozart) or the type of work, such as madrigals or motets.

The concert began with the choir singing 'Three Madrigals' by Diemer, a French version of the Lord's Prayer ("Notre Pere') by Maurice Durufle and 'Dirait-on' by Morten Lauridsen.

The choir was fortunate in having the services of two soloists, Beth Moxon (alto) and Angharad Watkeys (soprano), from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Beth sang the Welsh piece 'Gwynfyd', followed by Angharad singing 'Adieu notre petite table' by Massenet and 'Madame Noy' by Bliss.

Both soloists were enthusiastically received by the audience.

Cavatina sang a variety of other pieces, which included Bruckner's 'Locus Iste', Mozart's 'Ave Verum Corpus', and Morley's 'April is in My Mistress' Face'.

Beth was accompanied by the choir in Mozart's 'Laudate Dominum' and both Beth and Angharad sang a number of other solo pieces during the programme.

The concert concluded with the choir and soloists singing Vivaldi's 'Magnificat' RV611, followed by generous applause from the audience.

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Ty Hafan lottery winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery.

● **£2000:** 397990.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £11,000 was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 370559; 362990; 839656; 881334; 114772; 697217; 533633; 290628; 727555; 617566; 736739; 693895; 269095; 302271; 696034; 958271; 131546; 148539; 210651; 260191.

● **£5:** 972109; 861760; 634909; 207178; 825132; 497399; 275522; 253410; 247323; 834240; 216824; 573411; 919095; 728883; 641034; 136839; 918923; 553414; 386101; 810330; 477456; 460944; 801506; 158792; 240036; 767095; 932957; 646381; 875322; 712758; 725895; 972596; 393251; 368423; 133623; 139653; 958990; 615341; 634765; 393714; 121988; 651971; 358415; 718614; 603671; 754599; 370403; 322390; 420539; 563708; 859794; 224943; 273337; 654851; 870323; 273420; 279827; 636323; 762956.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2067 2062.

NEW GROUP

FRIDAY
Dinas Powys 9.30am
Opening 5th April 2013
The Cabin by Swimming Pool, Hebron Hall
Sarah - 07525 852288

MONDAY
Barry
4.30 & 6.30pm
The Tadross Hotel, Holton Road (next to Bassett Park)
Lorraine - 01446 407002

Cwm Talwg Pub
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Severn Avenue
Wiggy - 07970 450694

Penarth
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Elfed Avenue United Church, Elfed Avenue
Nia - 07793 885581

TUESDAY
Barry - 5.30pm
Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, Trinity Street
Joanne - 01446 404897

Llantwit Major
9.30am
Catholic Church, Ham Lane East
Helen - 01446 750738

Barry RFC
7.30pm
Merthyr Dyfan Road
Teresa - 07889 828401

Llantwit Major
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Our Lady & St Illtyd Church (Catholic)
Ham Lane East
Helen - 01446 750738

Sully - 6.30pm
The Old School
South Road
Niki - 01446 740394

WEDNESDAY
Barry
4.45 & 6.45pm
St. Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-y-Castell
Annamarie - 01446 736534

Barry - 6.00pm
Cadoxton Methodist Church
Church Road
Joanne - 01446 404897

Penarth
9.30am & 11.30am
All Saints Church Hall
Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

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THURSDAY
Barry - 5.30pm
Highlight Park Community Centre, Barry
Annamarie - 01446 736534

Cowbridge - 9.30am
Cowbridge Rugby Club
Rob - 07708 941279

Dinas Powys
5.30pm & 7.30pm
The Cabin by swimming pool, Hebron Hall
Sarah - 07525852288

Barry - 10.15am
St Helen's Church Hall
Wyndham Street
Niki - 01446 740394

Cowbridge
5.30pm & 7.30pm
The Little Shop of Calm, Westgate
Rob - 07708 941279.

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BARRY MALE VOICE CHOIR PRACTISING THEIR DUTCH!

EXCITING times lie ahead once again for members of the Barry Male Voice Choir.

Following a well-deserved rest from engagements after their 110th celebratory year, the choir is once again on a surge of concert activity.

March 1 heralded this spring resurgence with a concert for the BP pensioners at the Mount Sorrel Hotel.

This was followed by concerts at St Mary's Church, Barry in aid of Barry Mayor Les Sword's local charities, and a concert at St Peter's Church, Dinas Powis.

Both these concerts also involved the Barry Ladies Choir.

Holton Road School Choir and St Andrew's Church in Wales School Choir also contributed to the melodious harmonies of the occasions.

Another European visit beckons. Choir secretary Richard King, explained: "Last year's visit to France was in search of wine.

"This year's visit to Gouda, Holland, is in search of the cheese. We hope to have a good time and look forward to sharing in the 90th celebrations of the Mannenkoor Gouda's Liedertafel, for which we shall be singing a song in Dutch."

The choir has been very fortunate in having the services of Jenn Edwards and her husband, tenor Bruce, in making the arrangements.

Bruce is confident that visits to a cheese factory and brewery, and the hospitality of the Gouda choir will ensure that the visit is fulfilling in every way!

Jenny, who has many family members living in Gouda, has also been assisting the choir in getting to grips with the difficult gutteral pronunciation when singing in Dutch.

In the photograph (above), the choir is performing at the St Peter's concert

Gareth Jones

'German Great Escape' remembered at Island Farm this weekend

VISITORS to the 'This is Your Heritage' event at the Pencoed Campus of Bridgend College this Saturday, April 6, will have the opportunity of meeting members of the recently-formed 'Hut 9 Preservation Group' and can learn all about the German Great Escape in March 1945.

The chairman of the group, Dr Jonathan Hicks, said: "The group was formed last December and comprises local historians and archaeologists.

"Our aim is to preserve Hut 9 and obtain Heritage Lottery Funding to restore it, and then open it to school visits and the general public.

"Our last open day in September attracted hundreds of visitors from far and wide.

"We are taking part in this annual event which aims to showcase the heritage of the county of Bridgend.

"Several living historians in WW2 uniforms will be on hand to chat with the public about Hut 9, the sole remaining building of the Island Farm prisoner of war camp. We will also be displaying artefacts from the camp."

Admission is free and there will also be three talks for the public to enjoy – on Hut 9 by local expert Brett Exton, the history of Kenfig, and St John's House.

Doors open at 9.30 am and the event closes at 1.30 pm.

VALE MAYOR'S COFFEE MORNING

THE Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's charity coffee morning is being held in the Corporate Suite, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, April 9, from 10.30am to 12 noon.

All proceeds will go to the above charity.

RHS garden designer brings 'Artful Bodger' to Cardiff flower show

LOCAL garden designer Anthea Guthrie has designed 14 RHS award-winning gardens in total, and in April (19-21) she returns to the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Flower Show in Cardiff with a wild woodland garden, in a collaboration with Heronsbridge School.

ABOVE: Anthea Guthrie.

The 'Artful Bodger's Garden' is inspired by the beautiful woodland around the school, where lawyer turned garden designer Anthea has taught for the past five years.

The woodland garden highlights the ancient craft of 'bodging', where the bodger would buy a stand of trees from the landowner and cut and make chair legs and other forestry products.

The bodger would build a 'bodger's hovel' to shelter from the worst of the weather, with the tools of his trade around him, including a pole lathe for turning the chair legs.

Show visitors will be able to walk through the garden, and view the bodger's hovel up close.

The garden will feature leaf mould, mossy logs and twigs, alongside typical woodland planting with primroses, ferns, and other local plants such as garlic chives, which grow profusely in the area.

Anthea said: "This will be my 14th RHS show, four of them with the students at Heronsbridge who get so much from working with the soil. The garden reflects the beautiful woods where I ride and walk, and demonstrates how an interest in horticulture can be developed with youngsters."

Anthea will also be in the talks and demonstrations marquee with 'A Learning Curve – Gardening with Children', a talk about the inspirational youngsters she works with in Heronsbridge.

YMCA courses for young photographers

BARRY YMCA will be offering two new courses in photography for the next school term.

Photography*Jnr is designed for children aged four–10 years old, and for the 11–16 group. Cameras will be supplied, or students can bring their own!

Spaces are strictly limited to 10 for each group. Sessions will be run every Tuesday afternoon in term time. Age four–10, 4pm–4.50pm, and age 11–16, 5pm–5.50pm

Children under the age of eight will need to be accompanied by a parent/carer or guardian at all times.

Sessions are £6.50, which includes use of cameras and all creative materials Contact Natasha on *photography_jnr@yahoo.co.uk*

WI CELEBRATION BOOK CONTINUES ON ITS WAY

Llanmaes WI pass the celebration book on to Llantwit Major.

THE Celebration Book being created to mark the 90th anniversary of the Glamorgan Federation of WIs continues travelling around the Vale.

It will record the wide variety of interests, talents and activities of over 4,500 members in 108 institutes in the old Glamorgan area.

Mrs Jean Thomas, the longest serving member of Llanmaes WI, handed the book to Mrs Jean Swift and the enthusiastic committee of Llantwit Major WI recently.

Llanmaes WI meet at Llanmaes Church Hall at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month and Llantwit Major WI meet at Llantonian Hall at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of the month.

Both institutes welcome new members to share their friendship and interests.

WHAT'S ON - in brief

Evening of Clairvoyance

JOIN Leah Bond and Moya O'Dwyer for an evening of clairvoyance at Barry Spiritualist Centre, Buttrills Road, Barry, on Monday, April 8, at 7pm – £4 entry on door.

Advice from RNID

HAVE you any form of hearing impediment?

An advisor from the Royal National Institute for the Deaf will be available to give advice and support on services available.

This session will take place at The Senior Health Shop, 38, Holton Road on Thursday, April 11, 10am – 12 midday. This session will be very informal.

The Ageing Well Project is holding a series of health topics and information sessions as it is important to get information out to the over 50s.

How better than having a chat over a cup of tea or coffee? Contact 01446 732385 for further information, or just come along on the morning.

GF

FocusBARRY meeting

THE next FocusBARRY meeting will be on April 12 at the Barry West End Club at 7pm.

Members, supporters and guests are welcome to attend, contribute and to take part during the discussion sessions.

We are going to receive a presentation about the history of Barry Island, discuss an initiative called the Barry Ideasbank and have a general dicussion of the current local issues from around the town.

Jeffrey Heathfield
secretary, FocusBARRY

New Seat Toledo is a strong contender in family car market

by TIM SAUNDERS

WE live in extremely straitened times where most countries, including the UK, continue to accumulate debt.

The prospect of a career for life has become virtually non-existent. Most of us feel that there's less money, with which we have to do more.

Consequently, the hard-up motorist craves a good deal, and Seat, realises this. It has responded with its Toledo, the family hatchback priced from under £13,000 to just below £18,000, and its diesel model also happens to be super economical. Thank goodness – perhaps life is not so bad after all.

Named after the historic Spanish city, this is an extremely sensible car for our times. With its clean lines, it is one to be proud of, and the 1.6TDI SE test model was significantly helped by its burgundy finish.

Sharing the same chassis as the Skoda Rapid, which I tested only a few weeks ago, both models clearly share a good deal.

The Seat Toledo 1.6TDI SE.

This comes as no surprise as Seat is owned by Volkswagen, which also owns Skoda.

The rear wash/wipe on both models has been borrowed from the Audi A1. The washer is built into the wiper and effectively projects a jet of spray across the window, unlike any other wiper I have come across. Buyers pay a premium for such innovative features on the Audi, too.

Inside, the dashboard is very similar to the Rapid, with the same layout and controls.

Then there's the good build quality and the hardwearing interior trim. Its seats, however, could do with being more supportive, especially over longer journeys. Generally it has a competent, if bland, ride.

There's a folding armrest in the centre of the cabin, which is useful for long motorway jaunts when gear changes aren't required.

At speed, the Toledo does buffet a bit in the wind but this is quickly forgotten when realising that this little gem returns over 50mpg at 70mph.

Engine stop/start helps this model easily cover 700 miles on a tank of fuel. It's pretty gutsy, too, hitting 60mph from standstill in just over 10 seconds. The five-speed box is as reasonable as you might expect; I don't have a bad word to say about it.

Families need a massive boot and they won't be disappointed with the 550 litres of luggage space, as you can see in the video at *testdrives.biz*. If more room is required, the rear seats fold down and the centre rear armrest conceals a hole for long, awkward objects such as skis or piping.

Luxuries include electric front windows, electrically adjustable wing mirrors and air conditioning.

"Seat will be hoping that the Toledo can help dent the sales figures of popular established hatchbacks like the Ford Focus, while pinning back newer entries in to this market such as the Volvo V40," writes Parkers, the car experts.

"While it may have the appearance of a saloon, this latest version of the Toledo comes with a large, wide-opening rear hatch."

The Toledo, just like the Skoda Rapid, makes an ideal family proposition.

2013 onwards – New price range: £12,495 - £17,840; Economy: 64mpg; 0-60mph: 10.1secs; Top speed: 118mph; Power: 103bhp.

Watch the video at www.testdrives.biz

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NINA ESTATE AGENTS
are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of **£92,500** for
WEST WALK 30, BARRY CF62 8BY
Anyone wishing to submit an offer for this property should contact
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01446 736888
before exchange of contracts.

WANTED

Man looking for well maintained modern house, has cash available – quick purchase needed. Will pay up to £125,000.

First time buyers looking for 2-3 bedroomed house up to £100,000. Any areas of Barry. Mortgage in place.

Investors looking for properties to modernise in any areas of Barry – Reliable buyers.

These are only a few of many buyers waiting for properties, call for a free valuation on your property. 01446 736888

NEW SSTC in 24hrs
WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY
Three bedrooms, mid terraced. Living room, kitchen/diner. Replacement bathroom, upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. No chain. ER=D
£142,500

NEW
WYNDHAM STREET, BARRY
Bay fronted, spacious family home. Double exension. Living/dining room, kitchen, sitting room, upvc DG. Gas CH. Four bedrooms. Master ensuite. ER=C
£139,950

NEW
CARN Y EBOL, BARRY
Modern detached. Three/four bedrooms, living room, dining room, converted garage. Master with ensuite. wc cloakrom. Low maintenance garden. Driveway providing parking.
£197,000

NEW
BLACKBERRY DRIVE, BARRY
Modern detached. Four bedrooms. Living/dining room. Kitchen/breakfast. wc cloakroom. Driveway/parking. Integral garage. Larger than average patio. Enclosed garden.
£209,950

NEW SSTC
WOODHAM PARK, BARRY
Well presented, two bedroomed mid linked modern property. Living room. Replacement bathroom. Replacement kitchen. Parking to front. Cul de sac position. Enclosed rear garden. ER=C
£109,950

NEW
WYE CLOSE, BARRY
Two bedrooms, semi detached bungalow. Maintenance free. Living room - bi-fold doors opening to rear. Replacement kitchen, upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. Driveway/garage.
£164,950

NEW
DOBBINS ROAD, BARRY
In need of modernisation. Situated on enviable plot. Room to extend (subject to usual planning consent). Three bedrooms, two reception rooms. upvc throughout. No chain. ER=F
£124,950

NEW PRICE
GLENBROOK DRIVE, BARRY
Two bedroomed, modern semi detached. Fitted kitchen, living room with patio doors. Shower room. Garage/parking/driveway. Enclosed rear garden. ER=C
£114,950

NEW PRICE
LON FFERM FELIN, BARRY
Modern detached. Four bedrooms. Two separate living rooms, utility room, wc cloak, conservatory. private enclosed level garden. Garage/ driveway. Purpose made paths leading to Porthceri Country park. No chain. ER=D
£239,950

NEW PRICE
TRINITY STREET, BARRY
Three bedroomed, mid terraced traditional. wc cloakroom. Living room, fitted kitchen, level enclosed garden. West End location. Gas Central heating. ER=D
£114,950

NEW PRICE
WYND STREET, BARRY
Two bedrooms, bay fronted. Forecourted front. Immaculate presentation. Through living room, modern fitted kitchen, enclosed garden - lane access. Ideal first time buy. ER=D
£101,500

NEW PRICE
CLIVE ROAD, BARRY
Two bedrooms. Sea views from front elevation. Double glazed. Gas central heating. No chain. Viewing advised. ER=E
£109,950

NEW PRICE
CHANNEL CLOSE, BARRY
Modern detached. Living room, dining room, siting room, fitted kitchen. Shower room,wc. Three bedrooms, family bathroom. Shower room wc. Garage/enclosed garden. ER=E
£160,000

HOWARD COURT, BARRY
First floor apartment. Two bedrooms, living room, kitchen/breakfast. Family bathroom with freestanding shower cubicle. Garage/parking. Shared enclosed garden to front and rear. ER=F
£124,995

BREAKSEA COURT, BARRY
Top floor apartment. Split level. Living room, Replacement kitchen/diner - solid oak flooring. Two bedrooms, Replacement bathroom. Far reaching sea views over Bristol Channel. upvc DG. Gas CH. No chain. Designated parking to rear. ER=F
£115,950

WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY
Three bedrooms. Mid tarraced. Bay fronted. Through living room, kitchen, utility area, wc cloak, upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. Garage - lane access. ER=C
£139,950

LISCUM WAY, BARRY
5 bed detached (previously 4 bed). Downstairs cloakroom, living/dining room, conservatory, upvc DG and Gas CH. Driveway providing ample parking. Garage. Enclosed rear garden. ER=D
£224,950

OXFORD STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced. Traditional dwelling. Two reception rooms. Original block flooring. Three bedrooms. Rear garden backing onto Porthceri. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. No chain. ER=C
£162,000

COURTLANDS, BARRY
First floor studio apartment. Open plan. Living room, kitchen and bedroom. Separate bathroom. Communal door entry. Maintenance free living. No chain. ER=C
£59,950

PORTH Y CASTELL, BARRY
Stunning detached. Three double bedrooms. Open plan living room, dining room and kitchen. wc cloakroom. Sitting room. Master bedroom leading to sun lounge. Far reaching sea views. ER=D
£429,950

SURAN Y GOG, BARRY
Modern detached. Living room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast. Utility room - wc cloak. Integral garage. Three bedrooms (ensuite). More than ample parking. Garage/enclosed garden. ER=D
£189,950

MINSTER CLOSE, BARRY
Modern detached. Cul de sac position. Living room leading to dining room. Conservatory, kitchen, utility room, converted garage. Spacious side and rear garden. Driveway. ER=D
£169,950

SEALAWNS, BARRY
Far reaching sea views. Well presented. 2nd floor apartment. Living room, two bedrooms, kitchen, shower room. Garage/parking. Viewing recommended. ER=E
£124,950

SEALAWNS, BARRY
Lower ground apartment. Two bedrooms. Spacious living room. Outside balcony/ seating area. Fantastic sea views. Garage - communal parking. No chain. In need of modernisation. ER=D
£122,950

CARADOC AVENUE, BARRY
Semi detached. Three double bedrooms. Through living room. Fitted kitchen/utility room. First floor bathroom. Driveway/detached garage. Enclosed rear garden. upvc DG, Gas CH. ER=D
£129,950

FONMON PARK ROAD, RHOOSE
Modern detached. wc cloakroom. Living room, conservatory. Fitted kitchen, dining room. Master with ensuite. level enclosed rear garden. Driveway/garage, side access. upvc DG. gas CH. Viewing essential. ER=D
£164,950

PHYLLIS STREET, BARRY
Two bedrooms, semi detached. Living room, sea views from rear. upvc double glazing. Gas central heating. No chain. ER=D
£94,950

GLADSTONE ROAD, BARRY
Bay fronted. Mid terraced traditional. Shower/utility/wc. 21ft through living room, kitchen/diner. Three bedrooms. Hobby room in attic with velux window. Low maintenance rear garden. ER=C
£124,950

8 ROWAN COURT, BARRY
Three bedroomed mainsonette. Far reaching sea views. Refurbished throughout. Gas CH via combi. upvc DG. Newly fitted carpets. Newly fitted bathroom suite. 26ft lounge. Enclosed balcony. ER=D
£132,500

LYDSTEP ROAD, BARRY
Corner positioned. Semi detached. Three bedrooms, living room, dining room. Fitted kitchen. Garage/parking. Enclosed rear garden. ER=D
£119,950

DAVID STREET, BARRY
Two double bedroomed. Mid terraced traditional. Two reception rooms. Ground floor bathroom. Garden backing onto woodland. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. No chain. ER=D
£89,950

BELL STREET, BARRY
Two bedroomed. Traditional mid terraced. Living/dining room, kitchen. wc cloakroom. First floor family bathroom, Enclosed rear garden. Minutes walk to Porthceri. ER=E
£108,950

THE PASTURES, BARRY
Three bedrooms. Semi detached. Living room, dining area. Driveway leading to garage. Enclosed garden. No chain. upvc DG. Gas CH. ER=C
£123,000

GREENACRES, BARRY
Modern detached. wc cloakroom. Living room, fitted kitchen. Dining room (converted garage). Three bedrooms (master ensuite). Enclosed level garden. 2012 replacement combi boiler. upvc DG. No chain.
£159,950

COURT ROAD, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional. Through 25ft living room. Additional sitting room. wc cloakroom. Three bedrooms, upstairs bathroom. Garage - lane access. No chain. ER=D
£124,950

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 10 April 2013

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To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at
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Visible Services and Housing
Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

BUTTRILLS WALK, BARRY (2)

H4U Reference 203169
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement - no pets
- 2 x three-bedroom flats
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £86.02 per week including water charges

CULVER CLOSE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 252055
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens
- Water meter

Rent £87.49 per week

EAGLESWELL ROAD, LLANTWIT MJR

H4U reference 402466
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden

Rent £87.71 per week

FAIROAKS, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 237192
Suit for a single person or couple over 60
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Warden and alarm

Rent £100.95 per week including water, warden and alarm charges

LONGMEADOW CRT, COWBRIDGE

H4U Reference 230241
Suitable for a single person or couple over 60 - no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Warden and alarm

Rent £107.20 per week including water, warden and alarm charges

LOUGHER PLACE, ST ATHAN

H4U Reference 248899
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £96.92 per week including water charges

OSPREY COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 1018048
Suitable for a single person or couple
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £73.35 per week including service charge

REDLANDS AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 243339
Suit for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Third floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Warden and alarm

Rent £100.95 per week including water, warden and alarm charges

REDLANDS HOUSE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 243963
Suit for a single person or couple over 60 - no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor (lift)
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Warden and alarm

Rent £108.76 per week including water, warden and alarm charges

ST DAVIDS CRESCENT, PENARTH

H4U Reference 244553
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Four-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £91.87 per week including water charges

ST JAMES COURT, PENARTH (2)

H4U Reference 244838
Suit for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
- 2 x one-bedroom flats
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £82.81 per week including water, warden and alarm charges

WILLIAMS CRESCENT, BARRY

H4U Reference 228377
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement - no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- Second floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £80.00 per week inc water & service chgs

Important information for existing and new council tenants

From April 2013 Housing Benefit Rules are changing for 'working age' tenants who live in Council and Housing Association properties. If you are of pension age this chnage will not affect you.

Deductions will be made from Housing Benefit claim where a claimant is living in a property that is classed as too large for them. There will be a 14% deduction for one extra bedroom and a 25% deduction for two or more bedrooms.

To calculate room needs for a client, one bedroom is allowed for each of the following:

- every adult couple;
- any other adult aged over 16;
- any two children of the same sex up to age 16;
- any two children regardless of sex aged under 10; or
- any other child.

Foster children are not included in the calculation.

Examples

A single person (of working age) living in a two-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be one bedroom, so a 14% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply.

A couple (of working age) living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be one bedroom, so a 25% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply

A single parent or couple with a son aged 8 and a daughter aged 6, living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be two bedrooms, so there would be a 14% deduction from their Housing Benefit

A single parent or couple with two daughters, aged 12 and 6, and a son aged 4, living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be three bedrooms, so no deduction would apply.

Please be aware of the above when making bids for properties in this advert as this may affect how much rent you pay.

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes.
When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.
All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.
Newydd is a charitable housing association.

Cwrt Aethen, Barry
4 Bedrooms
Select Cul-De-Sac (1 of 7)
2 Separate Receptions - Views!
£244,950 TBC

Smeaton Close, Rhoose
Semi Detached Bungalow
1 Bedroom, Study, Lounge
Garden, Garage & Parking
£144,950 TBC

Whittan Close, Rhoose
5 Bedrooms
SW Facing Rear Garden
Ideal Family Home
£185,000 D59

North Walk, Barry
3 Generous Bedrooms
Wealth Of Parking
Enclosed Rear Garden
£100,000 D59

Morningside Walk, Barry
3 Bedrooms
Improved Internally
3 Car Drive & Garage
£164,950 G11

Hillary Rise, Barry
3 double bedrooms
3 reception rooms
Enclosed garden
£99,950 D60

Broad Street, Barry
4 Bedrooms
3 Receptions
Some Modernising Required
£135,000 D63

Aneurin Road, Barry
3 Bedrooms
Larger Than Average Garden
No Onward Chain
£114,950 C71

Romilly Road, Barry
7 Beds, 2/3 Receps
Substantial Family Home
Sea Views
£295,000 E50

Vale Street, Barry
3 Bedrooms
West End Location
No Chain
£129,950 D66

St James Crescent, Barry
5 Bedrooms
3 Receptions & Conservatory
Lovely Family Gardens/Solar Panels
£324,950 C75

Castle Road, Rhoose
2 Double Bedrooms
Super Rear Garden
Can Be Sold Furnished
£105,000 C70

Llwyn Y Gog, Rhoose Point
3 Bed Semi
Lounge, Kitchen/Diner & Conservatory
Garage & Off Road Parking
£164,000 C71

Heol Pilipala, Rhoose Point
4 Bedrooms
3 Reception Rooms
Cul-De-Sac Location
£215,000 C73

Cilgant Y Meillion, Rhoose Point
Detached 4 Bedrooms
3 Reception Rooms
Double Garage
£279,950 D68

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Properties Needing Updating – Waiting Buyers!
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Family Homes
All Properties on The Knap/West End/Suburb

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Quality Tenants with full reference or with guarantor, waiting for unfurnished 2 and 3 bedroom houses in Barry and Rhoose.

Instruct an ARLA qualified letting agent to manage your property.

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Chris Davies

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Llantwit Major 01446 792020
Barry 01446 700007
sales@chris-davies.co.uk

Lets!

Woodlands Road, Barry D32 - £475 pcm
Ground floor apartment, two bedrooms, part furnished

Scott Close, St Athan E47 - £475 pcm
Three bedrooms, kitchen/diner, GCH

Murlande Way, Rhoose C74 - £475 pcm
Modern mid link, Two beds, New carpets

Pinewood Square, St Athan E54 - £480 pcm
Refurbished, Two Bedrooms, Gardens

Flemingstone Road, St Athan - £495 pcm
Three bedrooms, kitchen/diner

Mallory Close, St Athan D58 - £495 pcm
Three bedrooms, Kitchen/diner, enclosed rear garden

Partridge Road, St Athan E48 - £495 pcm
Two Bedrooms, Kitchen/diner, GCH

Gerddi Margaret, Barry - £495 pcm
First Floor, two bedroom apartment, parking.

Pontypridd Road, Barry D56 - £495 pcm
2 Double Bed flat, Refitted Bathroom, Garage

Shakespeare Drive, Llantwit Major - £525pcm
TwoBedrooms, mid link, Parking

Ty Cwmpas, Rhodfa'r Gwagenni, Barry - £525 pcm
Two Bedroom apartment, Ensuite, Allocated Private Parking

Beaufort Way, Rhoose C73 - £550 pcm
Two bedrooms, Driveway, Enclosed rear garden

Bell Street, Barry - C76 £625 pcm
Three bedrooms, Downstairs bathroom, enclosed garden

Cilgant Y Meillion, Rhoose Point - £975 pcm
Four Double Bedrooms, Three Bathrooms, Conservatory

Westward Rise, Barry D57 - £995 pcm
Four Bedrooms, large garden, Three Reception Rooms

St Donat's, Llantwit Major E53 - £1,395 pcm
Four bedrooms, Family bathroom, Traditional features

Call Claire today to book a free rental valuation
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HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY
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A reception will be held for Meyrick's friends & family at The Bear Hotel at 1pm.

Further enquiries may be directed to the Funeral Directors, W James & Sons, Fonmon. Tel 01446 710096.

PEMBER
Margaret

Peacefully on March 25 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Margaret of St Athan, beloved wife of Alun, dearly loved mother of Royston, Heather, Alun and Jonty, much loved grandmother and great-grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday April 12, service 2pm at St Athan Church followed by interment in St Athan Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

OWEN
Mansel

Peacefully at Ty Gwyn Nursing Home, Penarth, on 25th March 2013, Mansel, loving husband of Margaret, proud father of Richard and Stephanie.

He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service to be held at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry, on Tuesday, 9th April at 11.15am. Family flowers only please, but donations, if desired, will be appreciated for Ty Gwyn Nursing Home and may be sent directly to Ty Gwyn Nursing Home, 21-23 Stanwell Road, Penarth, CF64 2EZ.
All enquiries to Green Willow Funerals, 21A Station Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4DE. Tel. (029) 2051 4627

JONES
Phoebe May

Peacefully passed away on March 27th at her home in Rhoose, with her family around her, Phoebe, beloved wife of Tom, dearly loved mother of Stephen and Lynda, much loved grandmother of Melanie, Louisa, Felicity, Stephen, Lloyd and Liberty, great-grandmother of Curtis, Chiara, Sophia, Mitchell, Caiden and Lincoln.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday, April 11th, service 11.15am at Porthkerry Church followed by interment in Porthkerry Cemetery. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, to Alzheimers Disease Society c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

Thank You

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The family of Bill Braund of Kathleen Street wish to thank everyone who came to his aid when he fell recently in Claude Road. Everyone was so kind and helpful. Bill is now recovering from his ordeal.

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WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE

Messrs Roger Thomas – **Millands Park, Llanmaes** – Erection of a small agricultural shed for the storage of machinery, hay, fertilizers, sheep and general agricultural implements.
NST Management & Development – **29 High Street, Cowbridge** – Alterations to ground floor and extension to rear of ground floor.
Lloyds Banking Group – **Lloyds TSB Bank plc, 1 Windsor Road, Penarth** – Three internally illuminated textbands; two internally illuminated projectors; one internally illuminated round brand logo; two internally illuminated heritage window light strips; one externally non-illuminated applied vinyl; two externally non-illuminated aluminium name plates; two internally non-illuminated applied vinyls.
Mr and Mrs Nigel Jones – **112 Stanwell Road, Penarth** – Proposed ground floor utility and kitchen extension.
MacDonald's Restaurants Ltd – **MacDonalds's Restaurants Ltd., Ty Verlon Industrial Estate, Cardiff Road, Barry** – Various new freestanding signs. Reconfiguration of existing signage to suit new drive-thru layout.
MacDonalds' Restaurants Ltd. – **MacDonald's Restaurants Ltd., Ty Verlon Industrial Estate, Cardiff Road, Barry** – Minor alterations to the drive-thru lane to provide a side-by-side order point which incorporates a new island for the associated signage. The relocation of the grill bays and the installation of two customer order displays with canopies over.
Mr Howard Anstee – **38 Smithies Avenue, Sully** – Outline application for four bedroom dwelling on existing plot in garden of 38 Smithies Avenue, Sully.
Mr and Mrs Grey – **Pheasant Rise, Cowbridge Road**, St Nicholas – Demolish and reconstruct conservatory to rear.
Mr Tucker – **8 Cae'r Odyn, Dinas Powys** – Conversion of garage to living accommodation.
Ms Vivienne Edwards – **Starlight View, 156 Westward Rise, Barry** – The erection of a timber fence.
Mr Ivor Tanner – **Highdene, Cowbridge Road, St Nicholas** – Proposed new dwelling in garden of Highdene, St Nicholas.
Cardiff Council – **Cambrian Marina and adjoining land, Watkiss Way, Cardiff** – Variation of Conditions of Outline Permission 08/02191/C to allow for phasing implementation and other matters where specified in letter.
Mrs N Richards – **Tudor Lodge, Bonvilston** – Construction of a timber clad single storey stable block.
Mr Bert Davelaar – **Land at 103 Penlan Road, Llandough** – Development of a detached house with a double garage.
Prof Christopher MacLeod – **41 Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys** – erection of rear single storey extension.
Mr John Durrant – **Franklin Court, Llanmaes** – Remove five conifers.
Mr Richard and Sian Banks – **The Tower, Tower Hill, Penarth** – External renovations, ground floor extension and new vehicular entrance.
Mr Adrian Shakespeare – **3 Frampton Lane, Llantwit Major** – First floor extension above existing garage.
Mr John Bowsher – **12 Cherwell Road, Penarth** – Construction of single storey front porch and cloakroom, construction of single storey rear extension and new roof, over-cladding with vertical stained timber boarding to existing stucco on first floor elevations. Replacement of some windows at ground and first floor, minor internal alterations and construction of new chimney stack.
Mr Raymond Thomas – **Long range of stone outbuildings, north-west of Sutton House, Llandow, Cowbridge** – Repair and construction work to gable wall.
Mr Mark Thomas – **Greystones, Rhoose Road, Rhoose** – 30 per cent crown reduction to Ash tree; dismantle line of Conifers; 50 per cent crown reduction to Weeping Willow; dismantle Conifer next to pond and dismantle Birch tree.
Mr Rehaz Abdoolla – **40 High Street, Barry** – Proposed change of use to one bedroom ground floor self-contained apartment (amendment to 2010/00545/FUL).
Mr Brian Casey – **7 Charteris Close, Penarth** – Extensions and alterations to bungalow and garage.
Mr Lyn Howell – **5 St James Crescent, Barry** – Proposed rear orangeries and double storey side extension for domestic use only.
Taylor Wimpey – **Land south of the railway line, Trem Echni, Rhoose Point, Rhoose** – Signs.
Lloyds Banking Group – **Lloyds TSB Bank Plc, High Street, Cowbridge** – To upgrade external signwork to the new trading style of the applicant.
Mr John Clowes – **Hillcot House, Church Road, Llanblethian** – Fell two large conifers.
Fitz Project Management – **Poundfield Farm, Pound Lane, Wenvoe** – Two storey south west wing extension to existing house.
Lloyds Banking Group – **Lloyds TSB Bank Plc, 9 Boverton Road, Llantwit Major** – Installation of illuminated and non-illuminated signs.
Mr Eifion Watkins – **Boverton Post Office, Boverton Road, Boverton** – One illuminated hanging sign, internally mounted, static illumination only.
Mr Lee Russell – **2 Norwood Crescent, Barry** – Proposed single storey side extension to form garage, utility and home office.
Mr N Humphreys – **84 South Road, Sully** – Erection of glazed balustrade and screen to perimeter of flat roof to rear of dwelling house.
Mrs Beryl Rosser – **23 Murch Crescent, Dinas Powys** – Single storey rear extension to include granny annexe.
Mr Nigel Esterkin – **82-84 Holton Road, Barry** – Change of use of upper floors from offices to three self-contained residential flats.
Mr Russell Bailey – **22 Cory Crescent, Peterston Super Ely** – Rear extension and reroofing of existing flat roofed garage.
Tesco Stores Ltd. – **Tesco Stores Ltd., Marconi Avenue, Penarth** – Installation of timber cladding situated to the right of the lobby on the front store elevation.
Tesco Stores Ltd. – **Tesco Stores Ltd., Marconi Avenue, Penarth** – Various advertisements at site.
Mrs Ralph Morel – **The Stables, adjacent to The Old Rectory, St Brides Super Ely** – To establish the continuous use of Flat 1 within the building known as the Stable Block as a single residential dwelling – independent of, and separate to, (i.e. not ancillary to) the use and occupation of the property/residential dwelling known as The Old Rectory and/or related commercial business purposes.
Fitz Project Management – **49 Kenilworth Road, Barry** – Conversion of house in multiple occupation into four single person flats.
Miss Mark Temple – **11 Charteris Close, Penarth** – Works to existing bungalow including rear and loft extensions and solar panels to roof.
Mr I and Mrs E Ashman – **Land to the west of Craig Yr Eos Avenue, Ogmore By Sea** – Development of six dwellings with memorial garden.
Mr Tony Harris – **19 Llewellyn Street, Barry** – Erection of single storey extension on rear elevation and pitched roof on existing two storey rear elevation.
McDonald's Restaurant Ltd – **McDonald's Restaurants Ltd, Ty Verlon Industrial Estate, Cardiff Road, Barry** – Reconfiguration of existing signage suite to include the retention of one height restrictor, four freestanding signs and one customer order display. The relocation of one welcome sign and the installation of two banners and one Totem sign.
Mr Mike Pycroft – **7 Melyn y Gors, Barry** – Single storey extension to side of property.
Miss Kirsten Wilcock – **120 Redlands Road, Penarth** – 1) A 9.2m x 2.4m ground floor side extension underneath existing first floor side extension; 2) A 6.4m x 4.0m single storey ground floor rear extension.
Mr Scott Browne – **6 Gerddi Margaret, Barry** – Garage conversion.
William Rees – **97 Murlande Way, Rhoose** – Two storey extension to side of property. Conversion of existing garage into living room.
Mr Phillip Atkin – **Little Pen Onn, Llancarfan** – Proposed two storey extension to existing split level bungalow. Accommodation to provide additional living space and guest suite.
Mr Michael Skinner – **60 Arcot Street, Penarth** – The conversion from a single dwelling to three flats.
Mr Mark Jones – **Crossenny, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major** – Two storey extension to existing dwelling and conservatory.
Ms Heather Booley – **137 Westbourne Road, Penarth** – Make crossover and dropped kerb adjacent to 137 Westbourne Road, Penarth. A paved driveway will be made with hardstanding for two cars.
Nick Boyle – **Treguff Farm, Cowbridge** – Installation and operation of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic facility (generation capacity of approximately 4.9 megawatts).

SUCCESS FOR BARRY YMCA GYMNASTS

BARRY YMCA gymnasts were somersaulting with joy after successfully passing their gradings.

Within the grades system gymnasts have to complete a number of identified skills on the vault, bars, beam and floor to gain enough points to 'pass' their grading. In grades 14 and 13 they also have to complete a conditioning set which tests their flexibility and strength. Grade 14 and 13 are competed regionally.

Grade 14 is the first grade that gymnasts can take and they have to be a minimum of 8 years of age in the year of the event to sit the grading.

Barry was represented in grade 14 by Celyn Powell and Sophia Foscolo, who both successfully passed their grading. Sophia also claimed a gold on vault and a 4th place ribbon. Bria Karim, Erin Gamble and Evie Wong all passed their grade 13.

There was also individual success for all three gymnasts. Bria claimed a gold medal on vault and a 5th place ribbon on beam, whist Evie gained a silver medal on vault and a 5th place ribbon on range and conditioning. Erin gained bronze on floor, 4th place ribbons on vault and bars and a 5th place ribbon for beam. She also placed 4th overall which earned her a spot in the south central area team for the Welsh Grades Championships, where she helped the team gain a bronze medal.

Caitlin Meadows, Dee Clarke, Lara Watkins and Seren Williams participated in grade 12. Caitlin, Dee and Seren all gained passes while Lara gained a distinction. There was also success for the Barry gymnasts who competed in grade 11.

Catrin Long, Chloe Sullivan, Kelsey Cross, and Seren Mirza Davies all passed, and Ellice Stockford enjoyed similar success when she passed her grade 10. Alana Stokes successfully completed the harder grade 9 and gained 4th place in Wales in this grading.

Congratulations to all gymnasts and thanks to coaches Aimee, Charlotte, Karen, Leanne, Olivia, Rachel and Stacey for their continued hard work and dedication to the club.

For further information relating to gymnastics at Barry YMCA please contact 01446 724001.

KD

2013 - onwards and upwards for Barry YMCA Rhythmic Gymnastics Club!

Barry YMCA Rhythmic Gymnastics Club has emerged successfully from an eventful and challenging 18 months.

At the recent Wales and West National Rhythmic Grades competition, Barry YMCA gymnasts reaped the rewards of all their hard work. In the Grade 9 section, Chloe Johns-Thwaite claimed third place, while team-mate Shanay Jenkins came 7th overall.

In Grade 7, Evelyn Heis came third overall in her first ever competition and accepted an invitation to the Welsh national preparation squad based on her performance in the competition.

Freya Evans, recovering from an injury, performed particularly well to secure 5th place. In the under-10 invitational competition, Elen Williams performed a poignant Free routine to gain second place and a stunning Hoop routine to secure first place.

In addition to gymnasts working extremely hard to perform newly choreographed routines implementing recent changes to this beautiful, evolving sport, Barry YMCA Rhythmic Gymnastics Club has undergone a myriad of changes these past 18 months. In January 2012, the club saw its head coach of 10 years leave and Lesley Dancey, a former Welsh international artistic gymnast and rhythmic coach in the section, take on the role.

Since Lesley has been in this role, the section has undergone many changes including expansion of the Thursday rhythmic beginners classes and the introduction of a brand new Recreational Section to accommodate the growing interest in the sport.

Summer was a particularly busy time with Freya Evans and Daisy Connolly representing the club at British National Grades finals; Freya Evans and Elen Williams participate in Gemau Cymru and other team-mates secure a number of medals at the Bath Open Competition.

You may also have seen club displays and 'have a go' sessions in Central Park to celebrate the London 2012 Olympic Torch relay passing through Barry and at the National Eisteddfod held in the Vale.

The club competition in December proved to be a big success, with gymnasts of all levels, including our beginners section, performing and showing off their gymnastic skills to parents, friends and relatives.

Barry YMCA Rhythmic Gymnastics club would like to thank Bob's Balloons, Sam & Sarah's and Fun Harbour Arcade Barry Island for kindly donating prizes to the raffle held at this event.

The club is now looking forward to an equally exciting and successful 2013 with gymnasts from the club competing in a number of forthcoming competitions beginning with the Welsh Open Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships in Cardiff on Sunday, May 26 and the Bath Open Competition in July.

These competitions are open to competitors from all over the UK, with Olympian Francesca Jones and the Great Britain Rhythmic Gymnastics Group regulars at this event.

If you would like information on Rhythmic Gymnastics classes at Barry YMCA, please ring 01446 724000 or contact ymcarhythmiccoaches@groups.live.com. Alternatively, check out our Facebook Group Barry YMCA Rhythmic Gymnastics Club.

LD

The lady golfers survive big chill!

DESPITE freezing and bitterly cold winds, the lady golfers of Brynhill managed to play all their fixtures during March.

Results: - Turkey Trot (over 10 holes), March 5 - winner: Audrey Phillips; Turkey Trot (over 12 holes), March 12 - winner: Glynis Gould, 26 points, runner up: Audrey Phillips, 25 points.

Easter Egg competition (over 18 holes), March 19 - winner: Jan Robertson, 31 points, runner up: Jo Kirkpatrick, 29 points.

Meet for lunch competition (over 10 holes), March 26 - winner: Shirley O'Donovan, 14 points, runner up: Audrey Phillips, 13 points.

The Meet for Lunch competiton was followed by a lunch which was enjoyed by 41 ladies, many of whom found the social side far more appealing than the golf, as it was such a cold day.

It is hoped that April weather will improve and the number of ladies who play will equal the number of ladies who lunch! Thank you to Julie Bannister, Brynhill's new caterer.

AP

Beavers hold swim gala

BARRY Beavers held their annual swimming gala on March 23 at Barry Leisure centre.

It was attended by seven other disabled swimming clubs from across Wales. It was also attended by some of the companies that assisted the Beavers in their fund raising last year including Mark Michelson from Morrison, Clive and Sue Taylor, Coun Maggie Payne and Howard and Carole Hamilton club patrons.

Thanks for all the support you have given to the club over the last year and it was wonderful to see you all supporting our gala. I would also like to thank all the High Street traders and Tesco that were generous in donating prizes for the raffle and Julie Doble who supplied the buffet.

The gala went off very well thanks to the help from all the leisure centre staff who prevented a last minute crises and made sure we had enough tables and chairs for all the competitors and guests.

All the clubs and competitors really enjoyed themselves, although it was tinged with sadness as everyone was missing Ann Horgan who was a very important part of the Barry Beavers team who died the beginning of March.

We had over 100 competitors who all gave their best in the heats and finals cheered on by their team members.

The final results for Barry Beavers was: Girls 25m gold for Natasha Lynch and silver for Ffion Jones.

Boys 25m silver for Louis Davies and bronze for Bryan Decastra.

Men's 25m bronze for John Evans; girls 50m silver for Talisha Rogers; Ladies 50m silver for Tracey Merchant; girls 100m bronze for Layla Rogers; Men's 100m silver for James Jones.

Barry Beavers also managed to win gold in both the junior relay (Jesse Rodgers, Shannon, Courtney and Layla Rogers) and senior relay (Philip Daly, John Evans, Nicholas Cushen and James Jones); congratulations to you all.

DL

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GEM sport

Dinas slump to a heavy defeat

DINAS Powys FC slumped to their biggest defeat of the season, losing 4-1 to Caerau although the first half was fairly even with no goals.

After an even start the first attempt on goal came from Adam Jenkins for the visitors but his shot from distance flew over the crossbar.

They also had the first corner of the game after a free kick on the edge of the box was turned away for the corner which was cleared by the Dinas defence.

At the other end a good cross from Adam Carpenter found Gareth Tedstone but he couldn't get his shot away quick enough and was disposessed.

Tedstone was played in again from midfield and his pace took him through for a one on one with Caerau's keeper Chris Barlow who just got to the ball before Tedstone.

The only other chance of note was a left foot curler from the influential Dale Price for the visitors which just cleared Damian Lack's crossbar and the half ended goalless.

Caerau came out in determined mood for the second half and an early cross from Corey Davies found Adam Jenkins who shot just wide.

They were not to be denied however and an attack down the right and a cross found Davies in space and his shot went in off the right upright for the opener on 20 minutes.

Just two minutes later they were two up when Jonathan Hood burst through from midfield to hit an unstoppable shot into the roof of the net.

A Dinas free kick just outside the box from Adam Carpenter forced Barlow into a good finger-tip save to push the ball over the bar.

The hosts did eventually pull one back when another free kick from Carpenter found Chris Hinam who slotted the ball home from eight yards for 2-1.

Manager Mark Dunford then rang the changes bringing on Matt Trottman and Danny Street for Steffan Davies and Jordan Phillips.

However, two late goals from Caerau made the game safe for them.

The first came from a corner which was bundled in at the far post. This was followed by a powerful shot from Robbie Walters which Lack did well to push over the bar.

Deep into injury time Caerau got their fourth when Hood broke through to lob the advancing Lack for a final 1-4 scoreline.

Squad: 1 Damian Lack, 2 Steve Provis, 3 Chris Hinam (c) (1), 4 Mike Lewis, 5 James Bloxham, 6 Kieran Harman, 7 James Williams, 8 Jordan Phillips, 9 Steffan Davies, 10 Gareth Tedstone, 11 Adam Carpenter. Subs: 12 Danny Street, 14 Matt Trottman, 15 Connor Parsons, 16 Mark Dunford. **PK**

Villagers back on top after tight win

A high quality contest between two well matched teams in Dinas Powys and Pontrhydyfen, played in an emotionally charged atmosphere, provided magnificent entertainment for the large crowd.

Dinas Powys kicked off and earned a penalty, which was kicked by outside half Gafyn Cooper and within a minute the visitors led by three points in the pleasant sunshine that bathed the Afan valley.

The home side responded with a period of intense pressure and they eventually forced their way over for the try through their bulky number 8, assisted by a couple of teamates and with the conversion added the home side led 7-3.

This period of pressure saw flanker Lewys 'Tindall' John break his nose and having tried to reset his own nose and rejoin the fray eventually had to give in to the inevitable and was replaced by Ryan Shallis.

Constant pressure from Dinas earned them a scrum, the front row of Tom Paterson, Lloyd Horwood and Mike Jones once again displaying their prowess in this tight area; the ball was moved along the backs and centre Dai Lloyd crossed the try-line, but the referee decided that crossing had taken place and the try was not awarded.

The home side moved the ball efficiently and constantly brought their wingers into the game and only fine defence by Dinas wingers Sam Alderman and Tom Chapman prevented further scores for the home side.

It was relief on the part of the 'Villagers' that greeted the whistle for half time with them trailing by only 7-3.

The elements were now in their favour and it was therefore a bitter disappointment that saw the home side score a try within a minute of the restart, and see the deficit advance to 14-3 .

The restart was knocked on and gathered by a player in an offside position and with Cooper kicking the penalty the score advanced to 14-6; however this was nullified within a few minutes by a further home penalty and at 17-6, and with half an hour remaining, a Dinas' victory appeared unlikely.

The momentum of the game changed dramatically as the Dinas forwards won a steady supply of ball; a penalty was quickly taken by the ever-alert scrum half Williams who crossed for the try.

The conversion by Cooper was successful and took the score to 17-13 and the prospect of victory tantalisingly close.

Pontrhydyfen gained a further penalty that allowed them to restore their seven point advantage.

The home defence was stretched and a long clearance kick was returned fully 50 metres by centre Dai Lloyd forcing a further penalty that allowed Cooper to advance the score to 20-16.

The game was now played almost entirely in the Pontrhydyfen half and wave after wave of Dinas attacks were somehow repulsed by a proud and commited home side.

Cooper kicked a penalty and advanced the score to 20-19 and a tense final few minutes were to be endured by two passionate sets of supporters.

The dynamic centre Lloyd made a telling break, second row James Walters drove to within inches of the line and recycled the ball and a quick pass from scrum half Nathan Williams to replacement full back Lewis Morgan saw him attempt a drop goal.

Time seemed to stand still as a scruffy scuffed kick meandered its way over the crossbar and between the posts to make it 22-20.

The match official blew the final whistle as the ball landed upon the ground and joy and despair were present in equal amounts on opposite side of the divide between both teams.

The win for the 'Villagers' saw them return them to the top of their division .

A further test awaits them as Treherbert visit the Common on April 6 to try and gain revenge for their narrow defeat earlier in the season. **HJ**

BARRY CHESS ROUND-UP

THIS week there is a break from matches due to Easter but it is my pleasure to report that the Camelots were promoted back to division one last Thursday when the Cardiff AJs met Porthcawl.

The Cardiff team went on to win 3 - 2 but whatever the result the Camelots would have been promoted anyway.

The Camelots have just recorded their seventh successive victory and are now a whole 10 points ahead of their nearest rivals, St Johns College, with three games still to play.

To win the division the Camelots need to take only 5 points from a possible 15 with their last match being a possible championship decider against the College team.

In division one the Bosons sit in fourth place; they lie behind the Caerphilly Kings by virtue of having one less matchpoint only.

Both the Bosons and the Kings are chasing down the Cardiff Bishops who are now only 3.5 points ahead in second place. There may be only two games to go in this division but the Bosons' final game against the Bishops could define who finishes as runners-up in this division.

The Penarth Pirates have become the first team from any of the divisions to be relegated this season.

In division 3 we are still in contention for a possible promotion and a relegation for our two teams. The pick of the performances recently goes to Dave Mahoney playing in a weakened Gambits team on board 1 against the Penarth Barons.

He was up against Russell Doddington, a player ranked almost 400 points above Dave. Dave was victorious and white picked up 4.5 points from this game with Windsor Lewis being the only player with black not to taste defeat.

The Gambits earned a rare win to move to within 2.5 points of safety. Unfortunately their two remaining games are against champions elect N Cardiff Cheetahs and promotion chasing Cardiff Crowns.

The Quarks are still in second place having recently lost 3-2 to Caerphilly Knights. The Knights lie in fourth position some 6.5 points behind the Quarks with 10 points still to play for.

The Quarks need 3.5 points from their final two games, which would seal their second successive promotion. In addition if they could pick up these points in their next match against Caerphilly Rooks it might help the Gambits as well as the Rooks are the team immediately above them in seventh place.

The fate of both of our division 3 teams could be decided in the next round of matches.

For more details visit our website: - barrychessclub.yolasite.com

The Barry Chess Club meets each Monday at their home venue of The West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY with matches starting at 7:30pm; new players of all ages and standards are welcomed. **PJ**

Open day

RHOOSE Bowling Club is holding an open day on Saturday April 6, starting at 2pm.

Anyone wishing to learn more about the game of bowls is welcome to come along to the club in Celtic Way for a chat and to have a few practice goes.

All you need is a pair od flattish shoes; bowls and instruction will be provided by club coaches.

The club is keen to recruit new members both male and female and youngsters; the club also has a bowls wheelchair for disabled players.

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